

# Homestead & Farm Notes

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Lake Butler, FL 32054

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## February 2012

## Events to Remember:

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- Thurs. Feb. 16th 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update:** Thursday February 16, 2012 at 5:00PM at the Lake Butler Community Center, 155 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Lake Butler, FL. **Registration Deadline is February 13, 2012.** Early registration is \$10.00, late registration is \$15.00. Call the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2312 to register.
- Sat. Feb. 25th Longleaf Pine Workshop for Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals:** Saturday February 25, 2012 at 9:30AM at the Union County Public Library. See below for agenda.
- Thurs. March 1<sup>st</sup> Tri-County Beef Update:** Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 5:45PM at the Lake Butler Community Center. Please contact the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321.
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## In This Issue:

- ❖ Beef Cattle Management Calendar
- ❖ Cool-season Vegetables to Plant
- ❖ Warm-Season Vegetables to plant
- ❖ Annual Flowers to Plant
- ❖ Fertilize Established Peach, Plum, Pear, Persimmon, Apple, Nectarine, and Fig Trees now
- ❖ Fertilize Established Pecan Trees
- ❖ Mature Blueberries should be Fertilized Lightly
- ❖ Fertilize Established Chestnut Trees Now

- ❖ Fertilize Established Citrus in late February
- ❖ Wildlife Happenings in February

**Enclosure:**

- ✓ 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update, Thursday, February 16, 2012.
- ✓ Tri-county Beef Update, Thursday March 1, 2012.

**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

**Cool-season Vegetables to Plant in February:**

Beets, broccoli cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, collards, endive or escarole, kale kohlrabi, lettuces, mustard, bunching onions, multiplier onions, parsley, English peas, Irish potatoes radish, turnip.

**Warm-season Vegetables to Plant in late February: (to reduce risk of frost damage plant after Feb. 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 (more than 1year 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 (more than 1 year old) Pecan Trees Now:**

If you have 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 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 (2x24).

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 (15<sup>th</sup>)**

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 Now:**

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 chestnut tree that is 5 years old would receive 5 pounds of fertilizer. This fertilizer should be applied in the tree drip line.

### **Fertilize Established Citrus in Late February:**

Citrus trees should be fertilized according to the number of years they have been planted, not counting the first year of establishment. The following table is an example, using a 6-4-6 analysis "citrus type" fertilizer, to help guide you through the process:

| <b>Years of Tree Age</b> | <b>Pounds of 6-4-6 to apply in February</b> |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1                        | 0.8 (about a pound)                         |
| 2                        | 2   |
| 3                        | 3.75 (about 4 pounds)                       |
| 4                        | 5.6 (About five and a half pounds)          |
| 5 and older              | 7.8 (about 8 pounds)                        |

## **Established Grapes can be fertilized in Late February:**

Apply one and a half (1.5) pounds of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year of age of the vine. There is maximum limit of five (5) pounds of fertilizer per vine. Waiting to fertilize till late February (15<sup>th</sup>) may help reduce chances of freeze damage.

## **Wildlife Happenings in February:**

- ❖ Purple martins scouts look over North Florida nesting sites. Make sure houses are up.
- ❖ Trilliums and dogtooth violets bloom in Panhandle ravines courtship.
- ❖ Clean and repair eastern bluebird nest boxes.
- ❖ Greater sandhill cranes migrate from Florida northward to Michigan and Wisconsin.
- ❖ Purple finches and pine siskins will leave our North Florida feeders and begin their migration back to northern nesting areas.
- ❖ Leatherback sea turtles begin nesting on sandy beaches along the southeast coast.
- ❖ migration back to northern nesting areas.
- ❖ Bald cypress trees leaf out Big Cyprus Swamp.
- ❖ Nesting season begins for ospreys in North Florida.
- ❖ Wood storks nesting in Corkscrew Swamp.
- ❖ Watch for manatees in spring runs.
- ❖ Snowy plovers start nesting.
- ❖ Sooty terns nesting in the Dry Tortugas.
- ❖ Wild Turkeys and quail mate South Florida.
- ❖ Magnificent frigate birds begin nesting in the Dry Tortugas.
- ❖ Woodcocks begin courtship behavior in North Florida.
- ❖ Woodpeckers begin their mating season and announce territories by drumming on houses, telephone poles and other objects
- ❖ Eastern moles are breeding this month in tunnels under our lawns.
- ❖ Pocket gophers begin their spring breeding season.
- ❖ First litters of gray squirrels born.
- ❖ Striped skunks begin their breeding season.
- ❖ Bear cubs born in dens this month.
- ❖ Deer fawns born in South Florida.
- ❖ Schools of Spanish Mackerel roam Florida Bay.
- ❖ Black Crappie and striped bass are spawning.
- ❖ American crocodiles begin mating, followed by nesting in April.

**Longleaf Pine Workshop for Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals:**

**Agenda**

- 9:30AM** Sign-In
- 10:00AM** Welcome & Introduction
- 10:05AM** Why longleaf pine? - Chris Demers, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC)
- 10:20AM** Fire and Stand management options - Dr. Michael Andreu, UF-SFRC
- 11:00AM** 15 minute break
- 11:15AM** Benefits of Longleaf Pine for Wildlife - Johanna Freeman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 11:50AM** Site preparation and planting - David Conser, Florida Forest Service
- 12:30PM** Lunch
- 1:15PM** Field Tour (Langford - Every Farm)  
Landowner Cost-Share Opportunities for Longleaf - (in the field) Ken Morgan, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Andy Lamborn & Nicole Howard, Florida Forest Service
- 3:15PM** Conclusion, evaluation and adjourn



## **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update**

**Lake Butler Community Center  
Lake Butler, FL  
Thursday, February 16, 2012**

- 5:00PM Registration Table Opens**
- 5:30 CORE: The Label**  
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 5:55 Bermudagrass Stem Maggot**  
Dr. Jason Ferrell, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist – Gainesville
- 6:20 Meal (Buffett)**
- 6:35 Weed Management Updates for Vegetable Crops**  
Dr. Peter Dittmar, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist – Gainesville
- 7:00 Update on Pasture and Hayfield Weed Control**  
Dr. Jason Ferrell, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist – Gainesville
- 7:25 CORE: Law & Rule Updates**  
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**  
Bob Hochmuth, Multi-County Vegetable Agent, NFREC – Suwannee Valley
- 8:40 CORE: Transportation, Storage and Security, and Disposal of Pesticide Wastes**  
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#: 13387

**To register, call the Union County Extension Office at  
(386) 496-2321 by February 13, 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: Lake Butler Community Center, 155 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Lake Butler, FL 32054**

**2012**  
**Tri-County Beef Update**  
**Beef Cattle Genetics Workshop**

**Thursday, March 1, 2012**  
**Lake Butler Community Center**

Contact the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321 to register.  
Registration is **\$5.00**.

**Registration Deadline: February 28, 2012**

**5:45 Registration**

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

**Nutrition and Body Condition Scoring Beef Cattle**

Tim Wilson - Bradford County CED  
Basil Bactawar—Union County CED

**Agriculture Damage Assessment**

Mike Davis—Baker County CED

**Beef Cattle Genetics**

Dr. Todd Trift  
Professor, University of Florida  
Animal and Dairy Science

**Questions & Answers and Evaluations**



# Longleaf Pine Workshop

for

## Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals



Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup> 2012; 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Union County Public Library  
250 SE 5th Ave, Lake Butler, FL

Once growing across much of this region, longleaf pine has many favorable characteristics for landowners with long-term, multiple-use land management objectives. Longleaf pine yields a large proportion of high value solid wood products, is adapted to fire and is resistant to many insects and diseases. When burned regularly, longleaf pine forests provide ideal habitat for a diverse array of plants and animals. The program will provide technical information for Forest Landowners & Natural Resource Professionals who have an interest in growing longleaf pine.



|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda</b> 9:30 am | <b>Sign-in</b>   |
| 10:00 5 min           | <b>Welcome &amp; Introduction, TBA, Florida Forest Service</b>   |
| 10:05 15 min          | <b>Why longleaf pine? - Chris Demers, UF-IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC)</b>   |
| 10:20 40 min          | <b>Fire and Stand management options - Dr. Michael Andreu, UF-SFRC</b>   |
| 11:00 15 min          | <b>Break</b>   |
| 11:15 40 min          | <b>Benefits of Longleaf Pine for Wildlife - Johanna Freeman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</b>   |
| 11:50 40 min          | <b>Site preparation and planting - David Conser, Florida Forest Service</b>  |
| 12:30                 | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 1:15 2 hr             | <b>Field Tour (Langford – Every Farm)</b>  |
|                       | <b>Landowner Cost-Share Opportunities for Longleaf - (in the field) Ken Morgan, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Andy Lamborn &amp; Nicole Howard, Florida Forest Service</b> |
| 3:15 15 min           | <b>Conclusion, evaluation and adjourn</b>  |

**Register:** This program is free. *Because space is limited, you are urged to preregister early.* Please share this announcement with others who may be interested. To register, e-mail or call the Florida Forest Service at:

Union County Forester, [Jav.Tucker@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Jav.Tucker@freshfromflorida.com), 386/496-2190

Bradford County Forester, [Nicole.Howard@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Nicole.Howard@freshfromflorida.com), 904/964-2461

Baker County Forester, [Andy.Lamborn@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Andy.Lamborn@freshfromflorida.com), 904/259-5128





**Union County Extension Office TDD number (800) 055-8771**

For meetings sponsored by Union County Extension Office: Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please call 386-496-2321 at least five (5) working days before the meeting, so proper consideration can be given the request.

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