

Homestead & Farm Notes

25 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Basil Bactawar MSc. Director

Pam Toney, Secretary

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January 2012 HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU

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- Thurs Jan 19th** **Small Farm Management:** Alachua County Extension Office. For more information please call (352) 955-2402
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- Fri. Jan 27th** **Small Scale Mushroom Production in Hardwood Logs:** Please call Sarah White (386) 362-1725, extension 102 or e-mail swhite@ufl.edu for more information.
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- Thurs. Feb 16th** **Alternative Enterprise:** Alachua County Extension Office. For more information, please call (352) 955-2402.
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- Thurs. Feb 16th** **22nd Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update** to be held at Lake Butler Community Center. Please see attached brochure for more information.
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- Sat. Feb 25th** **Longleaf Pine Workshop for Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals:** See below for agenda.
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In This Issue:

- Do you prefer to receive the Union County Extension Newsletter by e-mail?
- Farmers & Home Gardeners
- Those of You Planting Pine Trees
- Beef Cattle Management Calendar
- Cool - Season Vegetables to Plant
- Annual Flowers to Plant
- Bulbs to Plant
- Wildlife Happenings
- Longleaf Pine Workshop

Union County Extension Newsletter by e-mail?

The extension office currently provides its Homestead & Farm Notes as paper copies through the Post Office. Some counties are now sending out their newsletters as both hard copy and through e-mail. An electronic copy provides images in color that are generally more vivid and appealing to the eyes than black and white images on paper copies. If you prefer to receive an electronic copy of the monthly newsletter, then let us know through e-mail union@ifas.ufl.edu. Alternatively, you may call Pam Toney at the Extension Office (386) 496-2321 and ask her to add you to the electronic mailing list. You will continue to receive your newsletter through the post if you have not signed up for electronic mail.

Thank you,
Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension Director

Farmers and home gardeners

Should take soil samples and lime now so vegetable, pastures, hayfields, fruit trees and plants can make the best growth from spring fertilizer applications.

Those of you planting pine trees call Jay Tucker, Union County Forester, 496 -2190 for assistance planting trees, making timber sales, plowing fire lines, etc..

Beef Cattle Management Calendar for January:

- Now is the time to lime if your soil sample recommends liming for spring pasture & hayfields.
- Check and keep mineral feeders full, low quality forage requires mineral nutrition supplementation.
- Check for lice and treat.
- Control broad-leaved weeds in rye pastures.
- Buy only performance-tested bulls.
- Put bulls with cows now for October calving season.
- Make up breeding herd lists if using single-sire herds.
- Watch calves for scours.
- Review herd health program with vet and outline your program.
- Record cowherd heats, breeding abnormalities, difficult calvings, etc.
- Use high magnesium mineral supplement to prevent chance of grass tetany if you have heavily fertilized rye - ryegrass pastures.
- Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality before your breeding season.
- Vaccinate cows and heifers against Vibriosis and Leptospirosis before your breeding season.

Cool-Season Vegetables to Plant this Month:

Beets, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Chinese Cabbage, Kale, Kohlrabi, Leek, Mustard, Bunching Onions, Multiplier Onions, Parsley, English Peas, Irish Potatoes, Radish, Rutabaga, Turnips can be planted this month.

Annual Flowers to Plant This Month:

Carnation (China Doll), Pansy, Petunia, Ranunculus, Snapdragon. For early spring bloom we can also plant Delphinium, Digitalis (foxglove) and larkspur seed this month.

Bulbs to Plant this Month:

African Lily (Morea), Amaryllis, Aztec Lily, Calla, Crinum, Day Lily, Dutch Iris, Gloriosa Lily, Gloxinia, Hurricane Lily, Ixia, Kaffir Lily, Marica (Walking Iris), Spider Lily, Voodoo Lily, Watsonia and Zephyr Lily.

Now is the Time to Prune Oaks, other Mature, Dormant, and Large Trees:

- ✓ Prune out dead, diseased, broken limbs first. Then study the tree form and select the best-spaced and best-positioned branches you want to keep for permanent branches. Remove or shorten the rest.
- ✓ Young trees should be pruned to a central leader (main trunk).
- ✓ Branches with V-shaped crotches with less than a 40 degree angle are more likely to split; try to remove these; keep branches with crotches that form close to a 90° angle from the main trunk.
- ✓ Try to make clean cuts that will drain water, but don't make cuts flush with the main trunk. Try to leave a branch collar for callusing.
- ✓ Don't cut more than one third of the tree's branches off now.
- ✓ For more detailed information you can access the IFAS-EDIS publication at:
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG087>

Now is the Time to Plant Deciduous Fruit Trees & Woody Ornamentals:

If you haven't planted your fruit trees, nut trees, and woody ornamentals yet, you should. Take advantage of the cool temperatures for the transplants to get a root system established, before we have hot, dry spring weather.

The following cultivars (varieties) of fruit and nut trees are recommended for North Florida, by Dr. Pete Andersen:

Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*): Cape Fear, Curtis, Elliott, Moreland, Stuart, and Sumner.

Peaches (*Prunus persica*):

Melting-flesh peaches: Flordadawn, Flordaglobe, Flordaking, Flordacrest, FlordaRio, Junegold. Flordacrest has the best quality of the melting -flesh peaches for north Florida.

Non-melting flesh peaches: Gulfking, Gulfcrest, Gulfcrimson and Gulfprince. These four cultivars are patented by the University of Florida, the University of Georgia and the United States Department of Agriculture. Gulfking and Gulfcrimson have the best overall quality of non melting-flesh peaches for north Florida.

Nectarine (*Prunus persica*):

Melting-flesh nectarine: Suncoast.

Plum (*Prunus salicina*): Gulfbeauty, Gulfblaze, Gulfrose. All three plums are patented. Gulfrose is probably the best cultivar.

Apple (*Malus domestica*): Anna, Dorsett Golden, TropicSweet (patented).

Southern highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium* hybrid): Emerald, Millenium, Jewel, O'Neal, and Star. All the above except O'Neal are patented by the University of Florida. Emerald and Star are probably the best two cultivars.

Rabbiteye blueberry (*Vaccinium ashei*): Brightwell, Climax, Powderblue, Premier, Tifblue.

Muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia*):

Fresh market grapes: Black Beauty, Black Fry, Early Fry, Farrer, Fry, Granny Val, Jumbo, Ison, Nesbitt, Pam, Pineapple, Polyanna, Summit, Supreme, Sweet Jenny, Tara. All the above except Fry, Jumbo, Nesbitt, Polyanna, Summit and Tara are patented by Ison's Nursery.

Juice or wine grapes: Carlos, Noble, Welder.

Southern bunch grape (*Vitis* hybrid):

Fresh market grape: Daytona.

Wine grapes: Black Spanish, Blanc duBois, Conquistador, Stover, Suwannee.

Pear (*Prunus communis*): Baldwin, Flordahome, Hood, Keiffer, Orient, Pineapple, Tenn.

Oriental Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*): Izu, Matsumoto Wase Fuyu, Fuyu.

Blackberries (*Rubus* spp.):

Thornless: Apache, Arapho, Navaho, Ouachita.

Thorny: Kiowa, Shawnee. They are patented by the University of Arkansas.

Cold-hardy Satsuma (*Citrus unshiu*): Owari, Brown Select, Kimbrough.

Chestnut (*Castanea mollisima*): Carolina, Heritage, Revival, Williamette. (There is a recent trend to propagate seedling chestnuts due to a problem with graft incompatibility).

January Wildlife Activities:

- ❖ Nesting activity begins for Ospreys, Sandhill Cranes, Herons and Egrets, and Black Vultures.
- ❖ Deer reach the peak of the rutting season in north Florida.
- ❖ Gray Foxes, Bobcats, and Raccoons being courtship and breeding this month.
- ❖ Look for Red-tailed Hawks perched in trees and on billboards along interstates.
- ❖ Huge clouds of Tree Swallows should be visible around sunset roosting over large marsh areas.
- ❖ Cedar Waxwings and Robins are eating fruits such as holly berries.
- ❖ Male Cardinals begin territorial singing later in the month.
- ❖ Put your old Christmas tree to good use: Start a brush pile near your bird feeder. It provides good year-round cover for birds, and stays out of your county land-fill.

Longleaf Pine Workshop for Forest Landowners and Natural Resource Professionals:

Saturday, February 25, 2012; 9:30AM - 3:30PM, Union County Public Library, 250 SE 5th Avenue, Lake Butler, FL 32054

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

22nd 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** **Importance of Weed Control**
Dr. Jason Ferrell, UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist – Gainesville
- 6:20** **Meal (Buffet)**
- 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.

**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 3rd Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

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

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No 19
Postage Paid

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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