

Homestead & Farm Notes

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JUNE 2012

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

May 31st	Tri-County Pond Management Update: Bradford County FFA Farm. Call the Bradford County Extension Office at (904) 966-6224 or the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321 to pre-register. Flyer attached.
June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30th	Union County Farmers' Market is open every Saturday 8:00AM to Noon. Next to Jackson's Building Supply, Lake Butler.
June 4th	Columbia County Extension Office: Beekeeping Course from 6:30PM to 8:00PM, 164 SW Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City.
June 16th	Columbia County Extension Office: The Best Rose Tips for North Florida held at the Columbia County Public Library at 2:00PM.
June 21st	Alachua County Extension Office: Wildlife Habitat Program from 6:00PM to 8:00PM, 2800 NE 39 th Avenue, Gainesville.
July 2nd	Columbia County Extension Office: Beef & Small Ruminant Production program from 6:30PM to 8:00PM, 164 SW Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City.
July 19th	Alachua County Extension Office: Fruits & Nuts program from 6:00PM to 8:00PM, 2800 NE 39 th Avenue, Gainesville.
July 21	Columbia County Extension Office: Do It Yourself Irrigation for Home Gardens held at the Columbia County Public Library at 2:00PM.

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Publication by: Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension Director/Agent, IFAS
Dr. Max Irsik, DVM, University of Florida

Beef Calendar for June:

- ✓ This is the last month recommended for planting sorghum.
- ✓ Be sure to keep hayfields fertilized with 3 parts of Nitrogen to 2 parts of Potash when you fertilize after the first hay cutting.
Vaccinate your heifers for Brucellosis.
- ✓ Implant them with growth stimulant.
- ✓ Cattle market information and trends are changing, now is the time to "fine-tune" how you're going to market weaned calves.
- ✓ Check mineral feeders.
- ✓ Check Bahia pastures for Mole Crickets. Treat if necessary. June is usually the best month to treat for Mole Crickets, if you have a problem.

Find the **2012-2013** Vegetable Production Handbook at
<http://union.ifas.ufl.edu> **EXCELLENT GUIDE**

Vegetables Garden Pointers:

- If you need lime, now is the time to apply for fall gardening.
- Now is a good time to control nematodes in problem areas by Solarizing.
- **Solarizing:** Wet tilled soil with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch irrigation, cover area with clear plastic and hold plastic sheet down with bricks or boards; leaving plastic in place at least a month. After one month, pull plastic back, till, irrigate and cover with plastic again until the last week of August, when you are ready to plant the fall garden.
- **Heat-tolerant Vegetables to plant this:** include eggplant, okra, New Zealand Spinach, Sweet Potatoes (from vine cuttings, not tuber slips), Lima Beans, and Southern Peas.

Bulbs to Plant this Month:

Aztec lily, butterfly lily, gladiolus, spider lily, or walking iris.

***Read about the Spider Lily at
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep255>

Annual Flowers to Sow:

Warm season annuals to plant are:

Celosia, coleus, crossandra, exacum, hollyhock, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental pepper, portulaca, salvia, torenia, periwinkles, and zinnia.

Wildlife Happenings:

- ❖ Gopher tortoises are breeding.
- ❖ Red Bats and Seminole Bats are being born.
- ❖ Southern Flying Squirrels.
- ❖ Cicadas emerge from a 17 year growth period in the ground as adults to begin the song of summer and complete their life cycle.
- ❖ It's breeding season for least Terns, Oystercatchers, and Black Skimmers at the seashore.
- ❖ On June 1, 1952, the first Cattle Egrets were sighted in Florida.

***Read about the Gopher Tortoise at
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw295>



What is Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or (BSE)?

Basil Bactawar, MSc., Union County Extension Director/Agent, IFAS

Dr Max Irsik, DVM, University of Florida

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or 'Mad Cow Disease' is a progressive and degenerative fatal disease of the central nervous system of cattle. This condition in cattle results in changes in temperament, such as nervousness or aggression; abnormal posture; lack of coordination and difficulty in rising; decreased milk production; or loss of body weight despite continued appetite. Early in the clinical course of the disease, symptoms may be slight, undetectable or unrecognizable. Not all affected cattle display all signs of the disease.

BSE is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), which means the brain of an infected animal looks like sponge under microscopic examination. Other TSEs include scrapie in sheep, chronic wasting disease in deer & elk, and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Presently, there is no test yet available to accurately diagnose BSE in live animals. A Tentative diagnosis for BSE is based on clinical signs. A definitive diagnosis for BSE can only be confirmed by microscopic examination of an animal's brain.

In infected cattle, the prions or abnormal proteins often associated with BSE concentrate in tissues known as specified risk material (SRM), which include; the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain), eyes, tonsils, spinal cord, dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of cattle aged 30 months or older, and the distal ileum (portion of the small intestine) of cattle of all ages.

The most likely route of BSE transmission is through feed contaminated with the prion proteins associated with BSE. Cattle can develop BSE by eating as little as one milligram of infected tissue. In 1997, based on World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, countries with a BSE outbreak should have implemented a feed ban prohibiting the feeding of rendered ruminant (cattle; sheep; goats; bison; deer; elk) protein products, including SRM, to other ruminants. In 1997, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a final rule prohibiting the feeding of rendered ruminant protein products. Specified risk materials are removed from all cattle at slaughter in order to insure no potential harmful products enter the human food chain. Removal of specified risk materials at slaughter is internationally recognized as the most effective means of insuring food safety and protecting public health.