

HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

June 2013

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In This Issue

Livestock & Wildlife

Asian Ambrosia Beetle

Horticulture Hints

4-H Happenings

Upcoming Events & Programs

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

June 1st: **Blueberry/Blackberry Workshop** at the Suwannee County Extension Office from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. Please call (386) 362-2771 to pre-register.

June 3rd: **Northeast Florida Equine Culture Seminar** at the Clay County Fairgrounds.

JUNE 15th: **GOAT (DAIRY & MEAT) AND SHEEP WORKSHOP** at the Townsend Green Building & Museum 410 West Main Street, Lake Butler from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Registration fee is \$10. Please call (386) 496-2321 to pre-register, flyer attached.

June 15th: **Horticulture Workshop** at the Lake City Main Library at 1:30PM. Also on **June 20th** at 5:45PM at the Ft. White Public Library.

June 21st: **Food Preservation Class** at the Bradford County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. Please call (904) 966-6299 for more information and to pre-register.

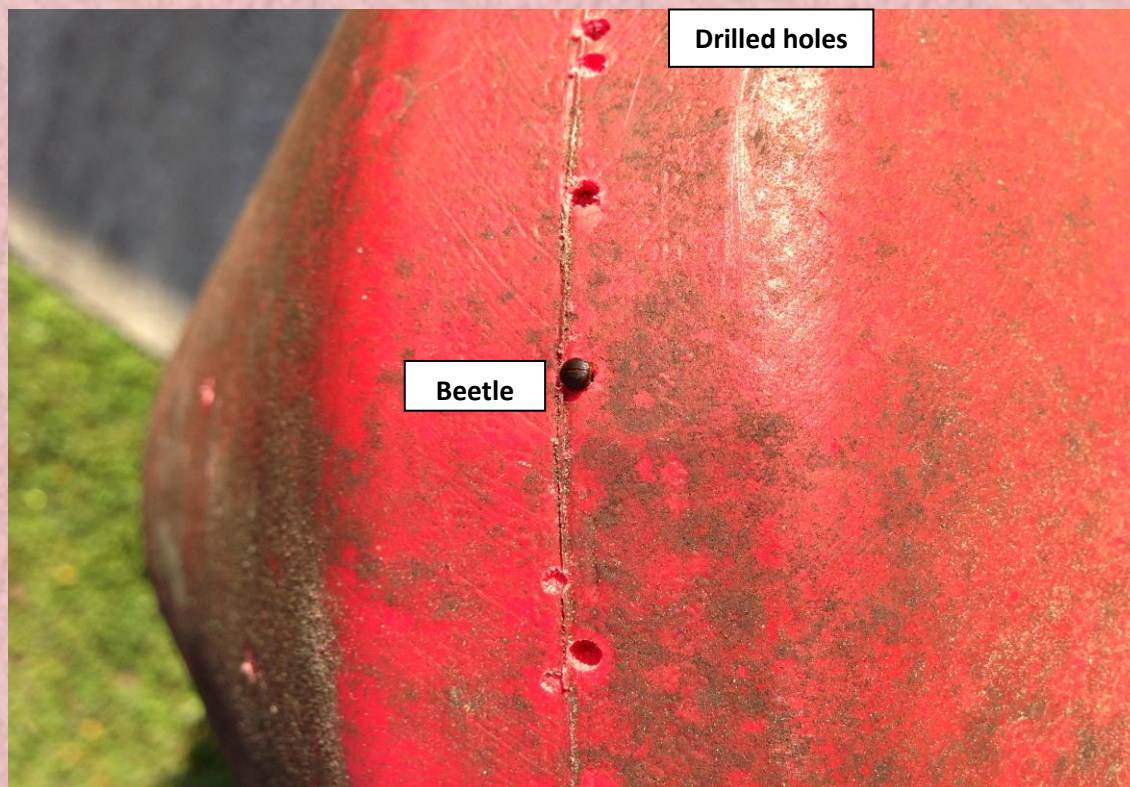


Is Your Plastic Gasoline Storage Container Safe?

By: Basil Bactawar, Union County Director/Agent

During April of this year, the Union County Extension Office received two used gasoline storage containers from a resident in Union County. The two containers had about 17 to 23 holes drilled along the upper seams of the containers. The holes appeared as if they were drilled with a 1/16 inch bit. The point of a ball point pen fits the size of the holes. A close examination of the holes revealed that they were drilled by beetles that have the size of half a rice grain. They were dark brown and some were embedded in the holes. Specimens of the beetles were sent to the Insect Identification Laboratory in Gainesville. They were identified as the Asian Ambrosia Beetle. (*Cnestus mutillates*). This beetle was first reported in Mississippi, then later in Texas and Louisiana. A scientific note reported they are capable of boring completely through plastic gasoline storage containers. This allows gasoline to leak from the holes. This can lead to a fire hazard. More information is needed on the biology of this beetle. Meanwhile, residents should examine their plastic gasoline storage containers carefully to ensure they do not contain holes.

The photo below shows the holes in a plastic gasoline storage container



Livestock & Wildlife

Beef Calendar for June:

- ✓ This is last month recommended for planting sorghum.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Be sure to keep hayfields fertilized with three parts of Nitrogen to two parts of Potash when you fertilize after the first hay cutting.
- ✓ Vaccinate your heifers for Brucellosis, implant them with growth stimulant.

Wildlife Happenings for June

- Gopher tortoises are breeding.
- Red Bats and Seminole Bats are being born.
- Watch for Southern Flying Squirrels.
- Cicadas emerge from a 17 year growth period in the ground as adults begin the song of summer and complete their life cycle.
- On June 1, 1952, the first Cattle Egrets were sighted in Florida.

Horticulture Hints

Heat tolerant vegetables to plant:

Eggplant, Okra, New Zealand Spinach, Sweet Potatoes from vine cuttings, Lima Beans, and Southern Peas.

Bulbs to plant: Aztec Lily, Butterfly Lily, Gladiolus, Spider Lily, and Walking Iris.

Annual flowers to sow: Celosia, coleus, crossandra, exacum, hollyhock, impatiens, kalanchoe, nicotiana, ornamental pepper, portulaca, salvia, torenia, periwinkles, and zinnia.

Lawn Care

Repairing Winter-Killed lawns & Sodding New Lawns:

- ❖ Frequent, short, watering are needed to develop a root system when repairing dead lawn areas or planting new lawns.
- ❖ Objects in watering during establishment are to keep the sod root system alive until it starts to peg down, then to encourage deep rooting. To ensure that roots don't die from lack of water following planting, irrigate a few times during the day until roots have pegged down into the soil. This generally takes five to ten days.
- ❖ Only irrigate enough to wet the top few inches of soil for this period (5-15 minutes per zone). After roots are pegged down, reduce irrigation gradually over the next 2-3 weeks to twice to three times weekly.
Later in the summer months, under drought conditions, daily irrigation may be necessary.

Begin fertilizing newly planted lawns about two weeks after planting.

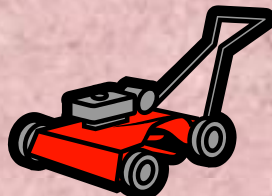
- ❖ Apply a complete (N-P-K) turf-type, slow release nitrogen fertilizer (e.g., 16-4-8 or 15-4-15) to provide $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Do this every 2-3 weeks until lawn has completely filled in, and then follow fertility regimes as recommended for your grass species.

Time for establishment will vary, but most lawns should be considered established 2-3 months after planting.

- ❖ If you are planting centipede grass, only apply fertilizer once during establishment.
- ❖ **Look for the words slow-release or controlled-release on fertilizer labels.**
- ❖ Nitrogen in this type of fertilizer will not burn or wash away as readily as quick release nitrogen sources. Don't be fooled by the word organic. Some organic fertilizers are water-soluble and can leach as quickly as inorganic fertilizers.

Watering recommendations for Established lawns:

- ❖ Irrigate when about half of the lawn shows wilting.
- ❖ Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of water when you irrigate (you can use a coffee can to measure how much water you have applied).
- ❖ Water in the early morning hours.
- ❖ Rule of thumb is 2 to 3 watering per week when there are no rainfall events during the week.





UNION COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

HOURS: SATURDAY'S FROM 8:00AM TO 12:00 NOON

WIC COUPONS & SENIOR VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

LOCATED NEXT TO JACKSON'S BUILDING SUPPLY IN LAKE BUTLER ON STATE ROAD 231

COME AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS



4-H Happenings



bag lunch.

June 11th: *Canoeing the Santa Fe*, maximum of 7 youth, 8:00AM, \$25.00, bring



June 18th - 20th: *Space Camp*, \$80.00 plus food.



June 24th - 28th: *Camp Cherry Lake*, Madison County. Bus will leave Extension Office at 8:00AM and arrive at camp at Noon. Bus will return on the 28th around 12:00 Noon at the Extension Office.

Deadline for all camps and fees paid in full is two (2) weeks prior to the camp



GOAT (Dairy & Meat) AND SHEEP WORKSHOP

JUNE 15, 2013

TOWNSEND GREEN BUILDING & MUSEUM

410 WEST MAIN STREET

LAKE BUTLER, FL 32054

PLEASE CALL THE UNION COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT (386) 496-2321 BY JUNE 11TH TO PRE-REGISTER

REGISTRATION FEE IS \$10 WHICH INCLUDES PRICE OF MEAL

AGENDA

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 9:30AM | Registration |
| 10:00AM – 10:30AM | How to determine your cost of production for goat. (Take home CD to practice with will be made available). Breeds of Sheep Suitable for Florida, Basil Bactawar, County Extension Director/Agent Union County/IFAS. |
| 10:30AM – 11:00AM | Pasture Management and feeding Goats, Dave Nistler, Agriculture Small Farms and Natural Resource Agent, Clay County/IFAS. |
| 11:00AM –12:00PM | Herd Health-Goats, Dr. Gabriele Maier, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida. |
| 12:00PM – 1:00PM | Lunch, meal provided. Goat Curry and side dishes will be served. If you do not wish to eat goat meat or are a vegetarian you are welcome to bring a bag lunch. |
| 1:00PM – 2:00PM | Question and Answer period and the opportunity for producers to share their experience. |

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.

Union County Extension Office

25 NE 1st Street

Lake Butler, FL 32054

Non-Profit Organization

Permit No. 19

Postage Paid

Contact Information - 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

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