

HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

March 2013

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

March 6th: **Culinary Herbs and Spices** free class (growing your own herbs) at the Alachua County Extension Office from 6:30PM to 7:30PM. Call (352) 955-2402 for more information and to pre-register.

March 8th: **Food Preservation Program** at the Bradford County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. Call (904) 966-6299 or (904) 966-6224 for more information and to pre-register.

March 19th: **2012-2013 Herdsman Contest** at the Bradford County Extension Office from 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon. Call (904) 966-6299 or (904) 966-6224 for more information.

March 18th & 19th OR March 22nd & 23rd: **Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business** at the Suwannee Valley Agriculture Extension Center, Live Oak. Call (386) 362-1725 extension 102 for more information and to pre-register.

March 23rd: **Beginning Beekeeping Short Course** at the Clay County Extension Office from 8:30AM to 4:00PM. For more information visit <http://clay.ifas.ufl.edu> or call (904) 284-6355 or (904) 269-6355.

April 9th: **Tri-County Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations** at the Baker County Extension Office from 8:30AM to 5:00PM. Please call (904) 259-3520 by April 2nd to pre-register.

Small Ruminant Corner

Keeping Diseases off your Farm

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 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 off (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 detergents and disinfectants for cleaning, hoof trimming and ear tagging equipment.
- ❖ Control or eliminate vermin.
- ❖ Make a concerted effort to protect your feed and water supplies from fecal contamination, especially by wildlife.

Basil Bactawar,

Union County Extension Director/Agent

Livestock & Wildlife

Beef Calendar for March:

- ✓ Keep mineral feeders full.
- ✓ Worm cows if needed.
- ✓ Make sure cows are healthy and making good weight gains.
- ✓ By April 1st begin a fly control/external parasite control program.
- ✓ Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves.
- ✓ Observe bulls for condition and success, rotate and rest bulls.
- ✓ Put bulls out on cows March 1st for your calving season to start December 9th.
- ✓ Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1st.

Bahia grass Pasture: Bahia grass root growth increases with warming temperatures. Don't forget the spring application of at least 60 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen with any other nutrients recommended by your soil test results. You can apply more nitrogen later in the season if you need more grass.

Wildlife Happenings for March

Frogs and toads move to ponds, streams and ditches to breed during rainy nights.

Gulf of Mexico Sturgeon spawns in the Suwannee River during the spring.

Largemouth bass spawn throughout Central Florida.

White Bass run up the Ochlocknee River above Lake Talquin.

Maybirds begin nesting.

Hummingbirds return.

To learn more about hummingbirds visit:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw059>



Ruby-throated hummingbird

Horticulture Hints

Bulbs to plant: African Lily, Amaryllis, Caladium, Dahlia, Spider Lily, Voodoo Lily, and Wastonia.

Vegetables to plant: Bush beans, pole beans, lima beans, cantaloupe, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, peas, peppers, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon.

Fruit and Nut tree fertilization: Apple, Peach, Pear, Persimmon, and Fig trees should have been fertilized in February with 1.5 (one and a half) pounds of 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year of the tree age until a maximum of 10 to 15 pounds per tree are reached. Do not put more than 15 pounds of fertilizer per tree.

Blackberry Vines: In late February bearing vines should receive 0.3 (one third) of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer.

Blueberry Bushes: Once bushes are two years old, they can be fertilized with two ounces/bush of a camellia-azalea type fertilizer. Go easy on blueberries; they can be killed with too much fertilizer.

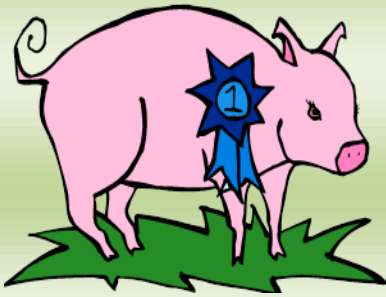
Citrus Trees: Hold off from fertilizing bearing trees until late spring, when fruit is set. Newly set trees should be fertilized in April (after danger of frost, look in April's newsletter for information on citrus fertilization).

Grape Vines: Should be fertilized in late February with 1.5 (one and a half) pounds of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year of vine age (starting from the second year the vine was set out) up to a maximum of four (4) pounds per vine.

Pecan Trees: Apply fertilizer no later than March 15th at the rate of 2 pounds of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for every year the trees have been set out, up to a maximum of 50 pounds per tree. Zinc requirements for Pecans are high; you might want to use a "pecan special fertilizer" which usually has 1% zinc in it.



4-H Happenings



What's Happening in March

DATE	TIME	EVENT
9 March	8:00am	4-H County Events @ UCHS
16 March	9:00am - 11:00am	Rabbits and Poultry check in Bradford County
16 March	12:00 - 2:00pm	Goat check in
18 March	8:00am - 11:00am	Cattle check in
18 March	12:00pm - 3:00pm	Swine check in

Enjoy the Fair

Tri-County Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations April 9, 2013

Registration Deadline – April 2, 2013 5:00 PM

Baker County Extension Office

- 8:30 a.m.** Registration (\$5 per person - Exam takers should contact their County Agent to purchase study materials)
- 8:45 a.m.** **CORE Principles** (Applying Pesticides Correctly)
(Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension)
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Pest Control | Pesticides in the Environment |
| Pesticide Labeling | Special Environmental Concerns/Ground Water |
| Pesticide Formulations | Harmful Effects & Emergency Response |
- 10:00 a.m.** **CORE Principles** (Applying Pesticides Correctly)
(Tim Wilson, Bradford County Extension)
- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Personal Protective Equipment | Pesticide Handling Decisions |
| Mixing & Loading of Pesticides | Applying the Correct Amount |
| Effects of Pesticides on the Human Body | Florida Laws Regulations |
| Transportation, Storage, Disposal & Spill Cleanup | |
- 11:15 a.m.** **CORE EXAMINATION**
- 12:15 p.m.** **Lunch – on your own**
- 12:45 p.m.** **Private Applicator Agriculture Pest Control**
(Tim Wilson and Basil Bactawar)
- Pests & Their Control
 - Application Equipment
 - The Worker Protection Standard
- 1:45 p.m.** **Equipment Calibration** (Mike Davis, Baker County Extension)
- 3:00 p.m.** **Pesticide Arithmetic** (Mike Davis, Baker County Extension)
- 4:15 p.m.** **PRIVATE APPLICATOR AGRICULTURE PEST CONTROL EXAM**

CEUs (7 total, 3 CORE & 4 Private Ap/ Ag Row) have been requested for current Private Applicator License holders attending this program.

Call the Baker County Extension Office at 904-259-3520 to pre-register by April 2nd.

For individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact the Bradford County Extension Service at least 5 working days prior to the program in order for proper consideration to be given to the request. For TDD service, call the Florida Relay Service Center at: 1-800-955-8771.