

March 2014

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Homestead & Farm Notes 4-H Happenings



Office News

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Tri-County Private Pesticide School flyer

The Union County Extension Office will continue to provide valuable extension educational materials to the residents of the county by several means including the monthly newsletter. If your address has changed or you would like to receive an electronic copy instead of a hard copy please let us know. If you no longer need a copy of the newsletter, please contact the office at (386) 496-2321, or e-mail ptoney@ufl.edu.

Basil Bactawar,
Union County Extension Director/Agent



Upcoming Programs & Events

Visit: <http://union.ifas.ufl.edu>

March 6th: Small Poultry Production Workshop at the Bradford Senior Center at 5:30PM. Please call (904) 966-6224 to pre-register.

March 11th—16th: Bradford County Fair

March 14th: Grow Your Own Gourmet Mushrooms at the Baker County Extension Office from 10AM to 12PM. Call (904) 259-3520 to pre-register.

March 21st & 22nd: Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business at Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center, Live Oak. Please call (386) 362-1728 to pre-register.

March 24th: 2014 Winter Forage Food Plot Field Day at the Bradford High School FFA Farm at 5:30PM. Please call (904) 966-6224 to pre-register.

Are your cows getting enough minerals?

Basil Bactawar MSc. County Extension Director/Agent

Florida cattle industry ships approximately 700,000 head of calves annually to feed lots in the Midwest. Some of these calves do not perform well. This is attributed, in part, to lack of minerals as confirmed by blood assays and liver biopsies. If cows and calves are fed minerals, then why are some of the calves lacking in minerals. The answer to this question will be provided later, but firstly it is necessary to understand why both cow and calves and other animals need minerals. Forages in Florida are generally poor at supplying some of the required minerals for beef cattle. The feeding of minerals is like an insurance policy. It acts as a safety net when there is not enough mineral in the forages. It should be noted that even if all the minerals are supplied and correctly fed to the animals to ensure adequate intake, the animals may not perform to their genetic potential if the diets are lacking in energy, protein and vitamins. Adequate minerals in the diet help the animals to maintain their immunity to diseases, and cope with stressful situations like hauling calves over long distances to feedlots in the Midwest.

How do we ensure a healthy calf?

Calf health begins with the cow, and so it is essential to feed the cow properly. Special attention should be paid to the pregnant cow during the last trimester of pregnancy when the fetus is rapidly developing. There is a body of scientific evidence to suggest that maternal deficiencies of trace minerals and vitamin E can compromise the immune system of calves. These deficiencies may make the calves become susceptible to scours, pneumonia, navel and joint ill. Furthermore, adequate mineral nutrition during pregnancy has a positive impact by imparting protection via colostrum. Make sure the new born calf gets the right start by getting an adequate dose of colostrum immediately or within 4 to 12 hours after birth. Creep feeding is another way to deliver minerals and vitamins to calves. If creep feed is offered, monitor their intake because over consumption of creep feed may lead to digestive upset. The rumen of a calf is fully developed by 3 months of age. The calves may begin to consume the same minerals as the cows.

What kind of mineral I should be feeding my cows?

There are several sources of minerals that are available on the market. Free choice loose mineral mix is the most popular that targets intake of 2 to 4 ounces per animal per day. Mineral blocks are used as well. They are resistant to rain and dew. The disadvantage is that cattle tend to eat less of it when compared to the intake of free choice minerals. Some producers feed fortified energy and or protein supplement with minerals to encourage mineral intake. Salt (sodium chloride) and loose mineral mix are sometimes offered at the same time to the same beef animals. Cattle tend to prefer salt over loose minerals. They are likely to consume the salt rather than minerals. This can lead to mineral deficiencies because loose mineral mixes have all the minerals the animal needs including salt. One can feed the most expensive minerals, but if the animal does not eat it, it is useless. Research at the University of Florida showed there were seasonal variations on mineral intake as can be seen from Figure 1.

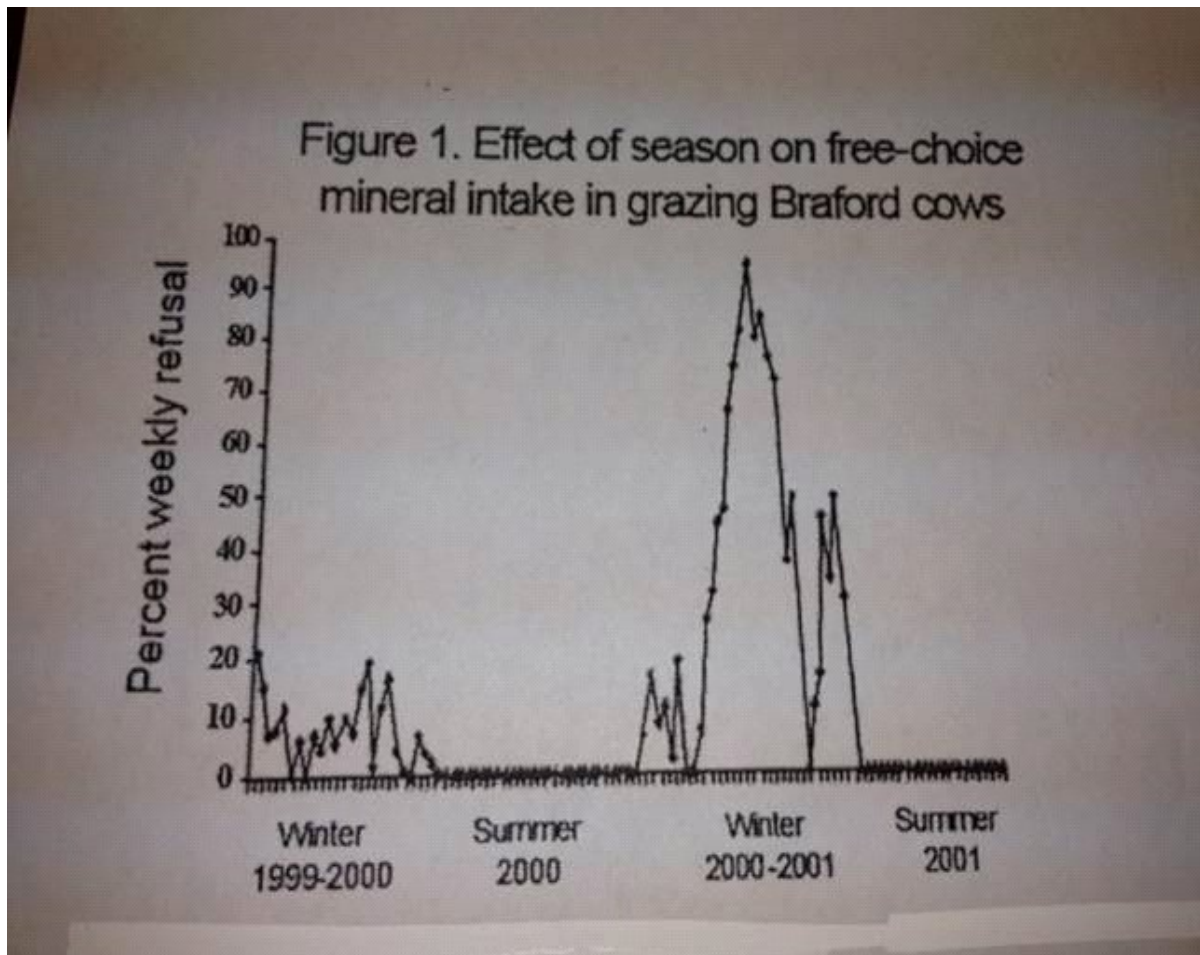
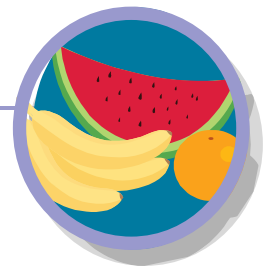


Figure 1. was taken from J.D. Arthington, Range Cattle Research Education Center, University of Florida/ Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

During the wetter summer months minerals containing salt were readily consumed. During the winter months the intake of the same minerals were reduced by 15 % or more. It is important to observe and take note when the animals are over consuming or under consuming minerals. In order to avoid over consumption of minerals, offer minerals every 10-14 days at a level that slightly exceed the target intake. Having the feeder empty for a few days is acceptable before offering more minerals. When there is reduction of minerals during the winter months, feed the minerals with soybean hulls or cottonseed meal at a ratio of 1:1. If the target intake is 2 ounces per animal per day, then the intake expected from cattle would be 4 ounces per day per animal.

Key Points

- ⇒ Good maternal nutrition is important to produce a healthy calf.
- ⇒ Ensure that the calf is fed colostrum 4-12 hours after birth.
- ⇒ The feeding of salt (sodium chloride) is not necessary for beef cattle when loose minerals are offered.
- ⇒ Pay attention to mineral intake during the year. Minerals intake during the winter month may decline. Add cotton seed meal or soybean hulls to increase intake.



Family and Consumer Sciences

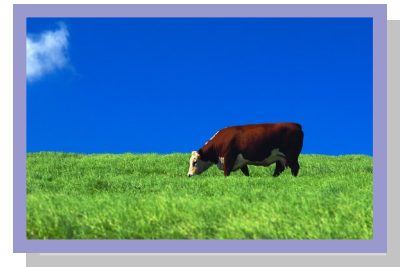
Hello Union County,

I am Samara Deary your new Family and Consumer Sciences Agent. I am a native of Virginia from which I taught Home Economics for two years before relocating to Florida in 2010. I have been with the University of Florida Extension since 2011. I started in Extension as a Program Assistant teaching a program called EFNEP (Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program) in Duval County. In short, I reached out into the community teaching families how to prepare low cost healthy meals. While working in Duval County I had opportunities to experience extension and all it had to offer. I am very excited to be the new FCS Agent in Union County and am looking forward to providing exciting activities to engage the community such as food preservation, healthy eating and ways to be more physically active and from farm to plate.

Samara Deary, FCS Agent I

Livestock Calendar

- ◆ 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.



Wildlife Wonders

- ◆ Frogs and toads move to ponds, streams and ditches to breed during rainy nights.
- ◆ Largemouth bass spawn throughout Central Florida.
- ◆ White Bass run up the Ochlocknee River above Lake Talquin.
- ◆ Hummingbirds return.





Horticulture Hints

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

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



Fruit & 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) pound 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 fertilizers.

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).



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.



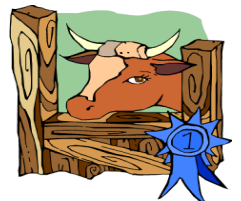
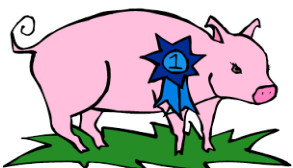
4-H Happenings

Enjoy the Fair!!!



March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 4-H Table Setting 4:00PM-Bldg. 1	8 Poultry & Rabbit Goat Show
9	10	11 Swine Show	12 Steer Show	13 Breed Animals Show	14 Swine Sale	15 Cattle Sale
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



**Tri-County
Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations
April 9, 2014**

Registration Deadline – April 4, 2014 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 4th.

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

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