

# Homestead & Farm Notes

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## March 2012

## Events to Remember:

**Thurs. March 1<sup>st</sup> Tri-County Beef Update:** Beef Cattle Genetics Workshop at Lake Butler Community Center starting at 5:45PM. Contact the Union County Extension Office to register at (386) 496-2321. Registration is \$5.00. Flyer enclosed.

**Tues. April 3rd Tri-County Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations:** Will be held at the Baker County Extension Office at 8:30AM to 5:00PM. For more information, contact the Baker County Extension Office at (904) 259-3520. Flyer enclosed.

**Thurs. April 12<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Northeast Florida Forage School:** Will be held at the Baker County Extension Service Auditorium.

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## Things to look for:

- Tri-County Beef Update
- Tri-County Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations

## **Beef Calendar for March:**

- ✓ Keep mineral feeders full.
- ✓ Worm cows if needed.
- ✓ Make are calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- ✓ By April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> for your calving season to start December 9th.
- ✓ Remove bulls March 22<sup>nd</sup> to end calving season January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Bahiagrass Pasture:**

Bahiagrass 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.

## **Fruit and Nut tree Fertilization:**

### **Apple, Peach, Pear, Persimmon, 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 tree age until a maximum of 10 to 15 pounds per tree is reached. Do not put more 15 pounds of fertilizer per tree.

### **Blackberry Vines:**

In late February bearing vines should receive one 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.

### **Chestnut Trees:**

Apply one pound of a 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer for each year the trees have been set out, ideally this should be done in February.

### **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).

### **Fig Trees:**

Once they leaf out, they respond better to a slow-release or organic fertilizer. If you use complete fertilizer, put small amounts of 10-10-10 analysis fertilizer once a month during growing season.

### **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 4 pounds per vine.

### **Pecan Trees:**

Apply fertilizer no later than March 15; at the rate of 2 (two) 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.

### **Landscape Tree & Shrub Fertilization:**

Now is the time to fertilize with something like a 16-4-8 or a 12-4-8 analysis fertilizer in the landscape at rate of 6 pounds of fertilizer per 1000 square feet of root zone area (drip-line area on trees).

### **Lawn Fertilization:**

Now is the time to fertilize your lawn grass with a complete fertilizer at the rate of one pound actual Nitrogen/1000 square feet. For example, if you used a 16-4-8 analysis fertilizer, you would apply 6.25 (six and a quarter) pounds of that fertilizer per 1000 square feet of lawn area.

### **Bulbs to Plant this Month:**

African Lily (Morea), Amaryllis, Aztec Lily, Caladium, Crinum, Dahlia, Dutch Iris, Gloriosa Lily, Gloxinia, Ixia, Kaffir Lily, Marcia (Walking Iris), Morea, Spider Lily, Tritonia, Tuberose, Voodoo Lily, Watsonia, and Zephyr Lily.

### **Wildlife Happenings in 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.
- Snakes and other reptiles are more active and likely to be seen in yards and gardens.
- Mangrove Cuckoos return to the keys.
- Summer Tanagers and Great-crested Flycatchers arrive to breed.
- Swallow-tailed Kites return to South Florida wetlands.
- Hummingbirds return.
- Woodpeckers begin announcing their territories by drumming on loud objects.
- Litters of Raccoons, Bobcat, and Armadillos are being born.
- Last chance to see Manatee concentrations in various springs this winter.
- Purple Martins begin nesting.

**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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Union County Extension Office  
25 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Lake Butler, FL 32054

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# 2012

## Tri-County Beef Update

### Beef Cattle Genetics Workshop

Thursday, March 1, 2012  
Lake Butler Community Center

Contact the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321 to register.  
Registration is \$5.00.

**Registration Deadline: February 28, 2012**

5:45 Registration

6:00 Welcome, Introductions and Meal (Sponsored)

#### Nutrition and Body Condition Scoring Beef Cattle

Tim Wilson - Bradford County CED  
Basil Bactawar—Union County CED

#### Agriculture Damage Assessment

Mike Davis—Baker County CED

#### Beef Cattle Genetics

Dr. Todd Trift  
Professor, University of Florida  
Animal and Dairy Science

#### Questions & Answers and Evaluations



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**Tri-County  
Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations  
April 3, 2012**

**Registration Deadline – March 28, 2012 5:00 PM**

Baker County Extension Office

- 8:30 a.m.** Registration (\$5 per person for CEU's, \$45 if taking exam - includes 2 books)
- 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 March 28th.**

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

