



HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

January 2013

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Upcoming Events & Programs

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

January 17th: **Tri-County Beef Update** at the New River Volunteer Fire Department, Bradford County at 6:00PM. See attached flyer for more information.

January 19th: **Small Farm Management** at the Alachua County Extension Office 2800 NE 39th Avenue, Gainesville from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Please call (352) 955-2402 to pre-register.

January 24, 2013: **Tri-County Forage Update**, Lake Butler Community Center, 6:00PM. Meal is sponsored and is no cost. See enclosed flyer for more information.

January 25th: **Small Scale Mushroom Production** at the Suwannee Valley Agriculture Extension Center 8202 CR 417, Live Oak from 8:30AM to 4:30PM. Please call (386) 362-1725, extension 102 to pre-register.

February 5, 2013: **23rd Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update** at Lake Butler Community Center, 5:00PM. Call (386) 496-2321 to pre-register by 4:30PM February 1st. See enclosed flyer.

Office News & Updates

Hello Readers & Producers,

This is a new year, and you will be making preparation for the upcoming forage growing season. You are probably thinking what are the varieties that are now available for 2013. Further, the Bermuda Stem Maggot is now a challenge for growers throughout Florida. It causes reduced yield, and it is important that you are aware of this pest and be prepared to deal with it. To this effect a Tri-County Forage Update will be held at the Lake Butler Community Center on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 5:45PM. The key speaker is Dr. Ann Blount, Forage Breeding and Management Specialist for the University of Florida.

Please call the Union County Extension Office at (386) 496-2321 to register. There is no cost for this event.

Thank You,

Basil Bactawar, County Extension Director/Agent



Livestock & Wildlife

Beef Calendar for January:

Now is the time to lime if your soil sample recommends liming for spring pasture and hayfields.

Check and keep mineral feeders full, low quality forage requires mineral nutrition supplementation.

Check for lice and treat.

Control broad-leaved weeds in rye pastures.

Buy only performance-tested bulls.

Put bulls with cows now for October calving season.

Make up breeding herd list if using single-sire herds.

Watch calves for scours.

Review herd health program with vet and outline your program.

Record cowherd heats, breeding abnormalities, difficult calvings, etc...

Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality before your breeding season.

Use high magnesium mineral supplement to prevent chance of grass tetany if you have heavily fertilized rye/ryegrass pastures.

Vaccinate cows and heifers against Vibriosis and Leptospirosis before your breeding season.

Wildlife Happenings for January

Nesting activity begins for Ospreys, Sand hill Cranes, Herons, Egrets, and Black Vultures.

Deer reach the peak of the rutting season in North Florida.

Gray Foxes, Bobcats, and Raccoons begin courtship and breeding this month.

Male Cardinals begin territorial singing later in the month.

Cedar Waxwings and Robins are eating fruits such as holly berries.

Small Ruminant Corner



Photo Courtesy Of: Dr. Stephan A. Wildeus

<http://www.sheepandgoat.com/HairSheepWorkshop/Images/BBtriplets.jpeg>

This month we will focus on: Barbados Blackbelly

By: Basil Bactawar

Origin: This breed was developed or evolved on the Eastern Caribbean Island of Barbados. The ancestry is believed to be of both African hair sheep and European breeds.

Coat & Color: The coat can be reddish brown, tan or yellow. The entire belly is black including areas between the legs, nose and forehead.

Mature Weight (lb.): Ewe = 70-120; Ram = 110-140

Disposition & Mothering Ability: This breed is a bit flighty. They are attentive, protective, and make excellent mothers.

Environmental Adaptability: They are adaptable to all climates. Their main advantage is that they adapt well to hot humid climate where woolen breeds do not thrive well.

Breeding Season: They breed throughout the year. Ewes will breed back before the lambs are weaned.

Lambing Interval: It ranges from 6 to 8 months. It is common to have ewes lambing twice per year.

Lambing %: 150 - 230 per lambing.

Average Birth Weight (lbs.): 7 lbs. for small lambs, 4-5 lbs. for twin lambs.

Weight Gain/Daily: 0.4 lbs. daily with good nutrition.

Market Weight/Live/Age: 60 - 80 lbs. / 9 month

Dressing %: 48 - 50%

Horticulture Hints

Cool season Vegetables to plant: Beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Chinese cabbage, kale, leek, mustard, bunching onions, multiplier onions, parsley, English peas, Irish potatoes, radish, rutabaga, and turnips.

Bulbs to plant: African Lily, Amaryllis, Aztec Lily, Voodoo Lily, and Watsonia.

Annual Flowers to plant: Carnation, pansy, petunia, and snapdragon. For early spring bloom we can also plant delphinium, digitalis (foxglove) and larkspur seed this month.

Now is the time to prune Oaks, other mature, dormant, and large trees:

Prune out dead, diseased, broken limbs first. Then study the tree form and select the best spaced and best positioned branches you want to keep for permanent branches. Remove or shorten the rest.

Young trees should be pruned to a central leader (main trunk).

Branches with V-shaped crotches with less than a 40 degree angle are more likely to split; try to remove these; keep branches with crotches that form close to a 90 degree angle from the main trunk.

Try to make clean cuts that will drain water, but don't make cuts flush with the main trunk. Try to leave a branch collar for callusing.

Don't cut more than one third (1/3) of the tree's branches off.

For more detailed information you can access the IFAS-EDIS publication at:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG087>

Now is the time to plant Deciduous Fruit Trees and Woody Ornamentals: If you haven't planted your fruit trees, nut trees, and woody ornamentals yet, you should. Take advantage of the cool temperature for the transplants to get a root system established before we have hot, dry spring weather.

The following cultivars (varieties) of fruit and nut trees are recommended for North Florida, by Dr. Pete Andersen.

Horticulture Hints

Pecan: Cape Fear, Curtis, Elliott, Moreland, Stuart, and Sumner.

Peaches: (Melting Flesh Peaches) are Floridadawn, Floridaglobe, Floridaking, Floridacrest, FloridaRio, Junegold, Floridacrest has the best quality of the melting flesh peaches for North Florida. (Non-Melting Flesh Peaches) are Gulfking, Culcrest, Gulfcrimson and Gulfprince. These four cultivars are patented by the University of Florida, the University of Georgia and the United States Department of Agriculture. Gulfking and Gulfcrimson have the best overall quality of non-melting flesh peaches for North Florida.

Nectarine: (Melting Flesh Nectarine) is Suncoast.

Plum: Gulfbeauty, Gulfblaze, Gulfrose. All three plums are patented. Gulfrose is probably the best cultivar.

Apple: Anna, Dorsett Golden, TropicSweet (patented).

Southern Highbush Blueberry: Emerald, Millenium, Jewel, O'Neal, and Star. All of the above except O'Neal are patented by the University of Florida. Emerald and Star are probably the two best cultivars.

Rabbiteye Blueberry: Brightwell, Climax, Powderblue, Premier, and Tifblue.

Juice or Wine Grapes: Carlos, Noble and Welder.

Southern Bunch Grape: (Fresh market Grape) is Daytona.

Wine Grapes: Black Spanish, Blanc duBois, Conquistadoe, Stover, Suwannee.

Pear: Baldwin, Floridahome, Hood, Keiffer, Orient, and Pineapple.

Oriental Persimmon: Izu, Matsumoto Wase Fuyu, Fuyu.

Blackberries: (Thornless) are Apache, Arapho, Navaho, and Ouachita. (Thorny) are Kiowa, Shawnee, they are patented by the University of Arkansas.

Old Hardy Satsuma: Owari, Brown Select, and Kimbrough.

Chestnut: Carolina, Heritage, Revival, Williamette. (There is a recent trend to propagate seedling chestnuts due to a problem with graft incompatibility).



4-H Happenings



Upcoming dates and events:

- January 1st: UCEO closed for New Year's Day
- January 9th: Early Release
- January 21st: UCEO closed for Martin L. King Jr. Day
- January 22nd: Teacher Workday

Record Books – Be sure to keep your book updated. A little work each day is better than a lot of work in February.

All Record Books – Are due 21 February 2013. **No later than 4:30PM.** Please no mailbox or home drop-offs.

Make sure you have your official 4-H dress and attire ready, to be sharp you have to look sharp.

Equipment Check: Brush, show box, cane, feed and water pans, halter, lead ropes, toothbrush and paste.

4-H Club meetings - Are you current and up to date?

Livestock Association Meeting and requirements ok?

Stay on top of your work, so you won't be under it.

A bumblebee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor

2013
Tri-County Beef Update
Beef Cattle Production Workshop

Thursday January 17, 2013

New River Volunteer Fire Department

Bradford County

Contact the Bradford County Office at (904) 966-6224 to register.

Registration Deadline: January 14, 2013

5:45 Registration

6:00 Welcome, Introductions and Meal (Sponsored)

Agriculture Damage Assessment

Mike Davis - Baker County Extension Agent

Basil Bactawar - Union County Extension Agent

Beef Cattle Production Panel Discussion

Dr. Todd Thrift - Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Dr. Jason Ferrell - Extension Weed Specialist

Tim Wilson - Bradford County Extension Agent

7:30 Questions & Answers and Evaluations



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2013

Tri-County Forage Update

Thursday January 24, 2013

Lake Butler Community Center

155 NW 3rd Street Lake Butler, FL 32054

Contact the Union County Office at (386) 496-2321

Bradford County (904) 966-6224 or

Baker County (904) 259-3520 to register.

Registration is free, but **Required**

The meal is sponsored to cover it's cost, please register by January 21, 2013

6:00 Welcome, Introductions and Meal

6:30 Forage Production and Bermuda Stem Maggot

Dr. Ann Blount – AST Professor, NFREC, Quincy

Tim Wilson–County Extension Director/Agent, Bradford County

Dr. Mike Davis - County Extension Director/Agent, Baker County

7:30 Forage Quality

Basil Bactawar - County Extension Director/Agent Union County

8:00 Questions & Answers and Evaluations



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23rd Annual Tri-County Pesticide Update

Lake Butler Community Center
Lake Butler, FL
Tuesday February 5, 2013

- 5:00PM Registration Table Opens –**
- 5:30 CORE: The Principles of Pest Control**
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 5:55 Pesticide Safety**
Barton Wilder, UF/IFAS, Extension Agent Alachua County
- 6:20 Meal (Buffet)**
- 6:35 Plant Pathology**
Nick Dufault, UF/IFAS, Plant Pathology Specialist - Gainesville
- 7:00 Update on Weed Control**
Barton Wilder, UF/IFAS Extension Agent Alachua County
- 7:25 CORE: Law & Rule Updates**
Dr. Mike Davis, CED, Baker County
- 7:50 CORE: Pesticide Formulations**
Tim Wilson, CED, Bradford County
- 8:15 Updates for Integrated Pest Management in Vegetable Crops**
Dr. Susan Webb, ASO Professor, UF/IFAS Entomology & Nematology - Gainesville
- 8:40 CORE: Personal Protective Equipment**
Basil Bactawar, CED, Union County
- 9:05 Evaluation and Adjourn**

A total of 4 C.E.U.'s have been applied for (2 CORE + 2 Private/Ag Row) for Restricted Pesticide Applicators attending this program.

FDACS Pesticide Certification Section Program ID#:

**To register, call the Union County Extension Office at
(386) 496-2321 by February 1st, 4:30PM.
Fee is required (early \$10, late \$15)**

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.

Venue: Lake Butler Community Center, 155 NW 3rd Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054