

HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

November 2012

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Upcoming Events & Programs

For a listing of more programs visit: www.union.ifas.ufl.edu

Nov. 1st: **Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group Beef Cattle Marketing** at Columbia Livestock Market in Lake City at 6:30 PM. See attached flyer.

Nov. 8th: **Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance Workshop** at Columbia County Extension Office 8:15AM to 2:30PM. Please call (386) 752-5384 to pre-register.

Nov. 15th: **Backyard Flock - Growing Poultry** at Alachua County Extension Office from 6:00PM - 8:00PM.

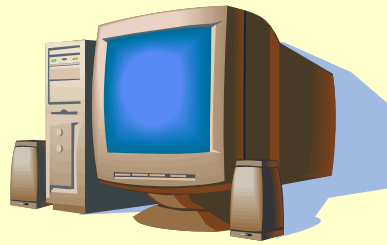
Nov 15th and 16th: **Beef Cattle Palpation Workshop** at Alachua County Extension Office from 8:30AM to Noon. Please call (352) 955-2402 to pre-register.

Nov. 16th: **Food Preservation Program** at Baker County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 2:00PM.

Nov. 19th: **Farm City Week** at Lake Butler Community Center at 6:00PM. Come and join us, bring a covered dish for your family plus three people.

Nov. 20th: **Drip Irrigation School** at Suwannee Valley Ag Center Live Oak from 8:30AM to 5:00PM. For more information call (386) 362-1725.

Office News & Updates



Hello Readers & Producers,

Once again, we will be celebrating Farm City Week at the Lake Butler Community Center on Monday, November 19th. The evening program will start at 6:00PM with dinner. This national event is celebrated in different counties just before Thanksgiving. It highlights the value of agriculture to people who live in the city. It brings together city folks and the agricultural community to forge a bond through socializing, sharing of information and expressing our thankfulness for our harvest. Everyone is invited to attend. Please remember to bring a dish for your family and three people.

The University of Florida Energy Efficient Building Construction in Florida 7th Edition Handbook is now available at the Extension Office. This Handbook could be of interest to new home builders, as well as existing homeowners. I encourage you to stop by and review the Handbook; it could help make your home more energy efficient.

Correction to last month's newsletter: It stated that Farm City Week would be celebrated in collaboration with the Union County Ministerial Association along with Florida Farm Bureau; it should have read Union County Farm Bureau.

Thank You,

Basil Bactawar

County Extension Director/Agent



Livestock & Wildlife

Beef Calendar for November:

Take soil samples of Bahia pastures and Bermuda hayfields now.

Observe cows daily and look for calving problems.

Check for external parasites and treat.

Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.

Calve in well-drained pastures.

Start summarizing your records, both for production as well as tax purposes.

Evaluate your winter feeding program and take inventory of your feed supplies.

Begin a bull conditioning nutrition program before the breeding season.

Review your plans and make arrangements before the breeding season.

Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past when cattle were grazing highly fertilized winter annual pastures.

Test your bulls for breeding soundness so you have time to find replacement bulls by the breeding season.

Look for poisonous weeds in pastures. This is a problem especially after a killing frost. Also, where pastures were grazed heavily and weeds allowed growing. Sicklepod seed pods are especially toxic. Mow off weedy patches in the pasture to prevent losing cows from toxic weeds.

Wildlife Happenings

Set up winter seed and suet feeders.

Look for downy, hairy, red-bellied, and redheaded woodpeckers on suet feeders.

Peak of deer rutting in Central and North Florida.

Bald eagles begin their nesting season. Look for spectacular aerial courtship displays.

Kinglets, phoebes, robins, and other northern songbirds have arrived for the winter.

Small Ruminant Corner



Photo courtesy of: Susan Schoenian <http://www.scsrpc.org/SCSRPC/Pictures/Pic3/SC4.jpg>

This month we will focus on the St. Croix

By Basil Bactawar

Origin: Developed in the Virgin Islands from crosses of West African hair sheep and Wiltshire Horn. In 1975 Utah State University imported a small flock of Virgin Island White which is the basis for the present St. Croix breed in North America.

Coat and color: Most of the individuals are white. Breed is free of wool and do not normally require shearing.

Mature Weight (Lbs.): Ewe is 80 to 140 pounds; Ram is 130 to 180 pounds.

Disposition & Mothering Ability: Breed is docile and calm with good flocking instinct. They are excellent mothers.

Environmental Adaptability: Withstand higher heat and humidity than British sheep breeds. In colder zones they produce a heavy winter coat that is shed in spring. They are excellent foragers.

Breeding season: Year round.

Lambing Interval: 7 - 9 months.

Lambing Percent %: Lambing rates vary from 150% to 250% with three lambing every two years not uncommon.

Average Birth Weight (Lbs.): 8.5 for single, 7 for twins, and 6.5 for triplets.

Weight Gain/Daily: 0.5 pound per day.

Market Weight/Live/Age: 75 to 90 pounds / 7 - 8 months.

Resistance to Parasites: Good. Breed is considered resilient to gastrointestinal parasites.

Horticulture Hints

Ornamental Shrub Concerns:

November is a good month to transplant potted shrubs and trees. Root systems can establish throughout the winter in time for spring.

Bulbs to Plant:

Agapanthus, amaryllis, aztec lily, calla lily, rhizomatous iris, kafir lily, walking iris, moraea, narcissus, spider lily and zephyr lily can be planted now.

For a complete list of **Bulbs for Florida** visit:

<http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/MG/MGO2900.pdf>

Red Spider Lily



Golden Spider Lily



Crinum Lily



Annual Flowers to Plant:

Pansy, petunia, shasta daisy, snapdragon, flowering kale and flowering cabbage can be planted this month.

Cool-Season Vegetables to Plant:

Beets, broccoli, brussels sprout, cabbage, carrots, chinese cabbage, collard, mustard, onions, radish, rutabaga, spinach and strawberries can be planted this month.



4-H Happenings



Some Things to Check on:

1. If you have a project for the fair, make sure you have a 4-H Record Book for that project. Ask you 4-H Club Leader if you need one.
2. BUCA & BUSA meetings, make sure you stay on top of these, if you have questions about BUCA or BUSA refer to your rules.
3. Get your 4-H Official Dress ready, you will need it on 19 November 2012.
4. Farm City celebration is November 19th, wear your official 4-H Dress, look sharp and be sharp.
5. If your 4-H Club is interested in displaying an exhibit at Farm City Week, please let me know.
6. See you at the Farm City Week celebration at 6:00PM.
7. Bring a covered dish for your family plus three (3) people.
8. 4-H Club Meetings, be there or be square. Most will meet at the Farm City Week celebration. Check with your 4-H Club Leader for your individual details.
9. Questions, please ask early, suggestions are welcome any time.

Remember: Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight, and bull-strong!!!



Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group

Beef Cattle Marketing

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012

6:30PM

COLUMBIA LIVESTOCK MARKET OF LAKE CITY

LAKE CITY, FL

Guest Speaker

Dr. Matt Hersom, IFAS Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Adding Value to Your Calves

John Willis

Market Outlook

Tom Bryant

FL Cattlemen's Association

Call your County Extension office to register by Tuesday, October 30th.

Alachua County: (352) 955-2402

Baker County: (904) 259-3520

Bradford County: (904) 966-6224

Clay County: (904) 284-6355

Columbia County: (386) 752-5384

Duval County: (904) 255-7450

Hamilton County: (386) 792-1276

Madison County: (850) 973-4138

Nassau County: (904) 879-1019

Suwannee County: (386) 362-2771

Union County: (386) 496-2321

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