

Homestead & Farm Notes

4-H Happenings

November 2013

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Upcoming Event & Programs

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

November 14th: **Hydroponics Workshop** at the Baker County Extension Office from 5:15PM to sunset. Please call (904) 259-3520 to pre-register by October 31st.

November 15th: **Food Preservation Class** at the Clay County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. Please call (904) 284-6355 to pre-register.

November 19th: **Dooryard Fruits & Nuts** at the Clay County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 10:30AM, free class. Call (904) 284-6355 by November 15th to register.

November 25th: **Farm City Week** at the Lakeside Community Center at 6:00PM. Come and join us, bring a covered dish for your family plus three (3) people.

November 28th & 29th: Thanksgiving Holiday observed; Extension Office closed.

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.

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 winter.

4-H Happenings



If you have a project for the fair, make sure you have a 4-H Record Book for that project. Ask your 4-H Club Leader if you need one.



BUCA & BUSA meetings, make sure you stay on top of these, if you have questions about BUCA or BUSA refer to your rules.



Farm City Week celebration is November 25th, wear your official 4-H attire, look sharp and be sharp. See you at Farm City Week celebration at 6:00PM. Bring a covered dish (with serving utensil) for your family plus (3) people.



If your 4-H Club is interested in displaying an exhibit at Farm City Week, please let me know.



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.



Questions, please ask early, suggestions are welcome at any time.

November 11th: Veteran's Day, Extension Office closed



Why are the pecan trees dying?

Basil Bactawar

County Extension Director/Agent

UF/IFAS Union County Extension Service

In July 2013, I was contacted by a pecan grower because he wanted to know why his pecan trees were dying. After ruling out several potential causes, it was brought to my attention by Dr. Jim Dutcher, an Entomologist with University of Georgia, that the prionus insects might be the cause. One pheromone trap was set on the farm that caught some insects that were confirmed as the insects in question. It is not known how wide spread this infestation is in the county.



Photo: Adult Prionus Beetle

Several pests attack the pecan trees. Two of them should be of concern to producers. The first one is the tile horned prionus insect. The adults are usually found in the orchard during May through July. The females lay their eggs below the surface of the soil near the pecan roots. The larvae bore the root and grow for 3-5 years. When the root is damaged, it affects the flow of water and nutrients in the tree. The trees begin to die from the top. The second insect is the obscure scale that cannot be easily seen by the naked eye. This insect feeds on the vascular system of the stem. It sucks the sap from the stem through its piercing sucking mouth part. This leads to die back of the limbs.



Photo: Pecan tree dying from the top

The control measure for the control of these insect are being developed. Trapping the adult male is one method of possible control, but it is can be used to determine the severity of the problem by setting up traps. The Extension office hopes to set some traps in pecan groves next spring to determine the severity of this problem.

Farm City Week



Once again, we will be celebrating Farm City Week at the Lakeside Community Center on Monday, November 25th. 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 (with serving utensil) for your family and three people.

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.

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.

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Non-Profit Organization
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