

November 2014



Homestead & Farm Notes 4-H Happenings



Farm City Week

Once again, we will be celebrating Farm City Week at the Lakeside Community Center on Monday, November 24th. 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. The Guest Speaker this year will be Representative Charles Van Zant. Please remember to bring a dish (with serving utensil) for your family and three people.

Basil Bactawar, Union County Extension Director/Agent



Programs & Events

Inside this issue:

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

www.solutionsforyourlife.com

Nutrition & Management in Beef Cattle

Livestock Calendar

Vegetables

Flowers

Lets Jam for the Holidays

4-H Happenings

November 6th: Lets Jam for the Holidays at the Union County Extension Office from 11:00AM to 2:00PM. See enclosed flyer.

November 10th: BUSA Meeting at 7:00PM at Starke Elementary School.

November 12th: North Florida Livestock Agents' Group 2nd Annual Goat Workshop at the Bradford County Fairgrounds from 4:00PM—7:30PM. Call 904-966-6224 to pre-register.

November 13th: Union County Beekeepers Meeting at 7:00PM at the Union County Extension Office.

November 24th: Farm City Week Lakeside Community Center at 6:00PM. Please come and enjoy!



The role of Nutrition and Management in Maintaining High Reproductive Efficiencies in Beef Cattle

By: Basil Bactawar, County Director/Agent

Proper feeding and nutrition are essential to maintain reproductive efficiencies in a beef operation. These begin with the young heifers that will be used as replacement for mature cows. On average, about seventeen (17) percent of the cow in a beef operation is replaced annually. Consequently they must be properly fed early in their lives. Research has demonstrated that young females that received poor nutrition had delayed puberty, reduced conception rates and increase pregnancy loss. In addition, genetics can influence age of puberty or first heat. Cross bred heifers tend to reach puberty earlier than purebred heifers, and daughter from sire with larger scrotal circumference tend to reach puberty earlier. Furthermore, heifers must be able to conceive as early as possible, and so it is important that they are recycling before the breeding season. Research has shown that conception rates increased by twenty (20) percent in heifers bred at their third estrus. Heifers must conceive at fifteen (15) to sixteen (16) months in order to produce a calf every year. As a general guideline, heifers should weigh sixty (60) to seventy (70) percent of their expected mature weight at their first breeding. Furthermore, they should weigh about eighty (80) to ninety (90) percent of their mature weight at their first calving. Their daily average gain during gestation should be approximately one pound per day. Although it is important to meet the needs of the replacement or growing heifers, over feeding should be avoided because it can lead to breeding problems.

A manager of profitable beef enterprise expects a cow to produce a calf every year, and so adequate nutrition is one of the key factors that influence reproductive efficiencies in cattle. In general cows that are fed diets high in energy after calving conceive sooner than those diet with low energy. Cows that conceive late extend the breeding seasons, and this usually leads to lighter calves for the feeder market. Although protein is considered less important than energy for reproduction, low intake of protein may lead to infertility. The take home message is ensure that heifers and cows are receiving adequate nutrition necessary to produce a calf every year. Please note not every beef producer can get his cow to produce a calf every year, but it is a target one can strive for.

Livestock Calendar



- 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.
-

[Click here to read more about](#)

[Woodpeckers](#)

Wildlife Wonders

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.



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.



[Click here for Florida
Vegetable Gardening
Guide](#)

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.

[Click here for North Florida Gardening Calendar](#)



Annual Flowers to Plant

⇒ Pansy, Petunia, Shasta daisy, Snapdragon, Flowering Kale and Flowering Cabbage can be planted this month.



[Click here for more information on
Pansies](#)

Lets Jam For The Holidays

Enjoy a make and take project with friends
making

Candy Apple Jelly

Confetti Pepper Jelly

That can be used as holiday gifts for friends
and family or to enjoy at home.



November 6 2014

Time:

11:00am– 2:00pm

Location:

Union County Extension

25 N. E 1st Street Lake Butler, FL 32025

Cost \$10.00

Registration Due by November 3, 2014

Call for more info and to register: (386)496-2321



4-H HAPPENINGS



November Birthday's: Tyson Woodland, Bella Johns, Reagan Robinson, Baler Waters, and Jenna Bielling. The Groves Club will meet at Farm City Week on the 24th, all members please be there at 5:45PM.

Happy Thanksgiving and remember to cherish family time!

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Growers & Showers Club	5	6	7	8
9	10 BUSA Not Mandatory 7PM Starke Elementary	11 UCEO closed	12 Cooking Club Livestock Club	13 Pioneers Club Union Depot 3:30—5:00PM	14	15
16	17	18	19 Shooting Sports Club	20	21	22
23	24 Farm City Week 6PM Community Center	25	26	27 UCEO closed 	28 UCEO closed	29
30						

4-H HAPPENINGS



UNION COUNTY 4-H'ER REQUIREMENTS

If you are showing **ANY ANIMAL**, you must meet the five (5) basic requirements:

1. You must be eight (8) years old as of September 1, 2014.
2. Attend $\frac{3}{4}$ of your 4-H Club meetings.
3. Complete at least one 4-H record book/project book. (Besides the animal record/project book).
4. Do a demonstration/illustrated talk at 4-H County Events or an Extension Office approved Community Service Project and book completed and presented at 4-H County Events.
5. Attend the required Cattleman or Swine Association meetings.

NOTE: Rabbits, poultry and little kids goat shows do not apply for 8 years and under.

ALL OTHER 4-HER'S:

If you are showing in any other category (Small animal – miscellaneous) you must meet four (4) basic requirements:

1. You must be eight (8) years old as of September 1, 2014.
2. Attend $\frac{3}{4}$ of their 4-H Club meetings.
3. Complete at least one 4-H record book/project book.
4. Do a demonstration/illustrated talk at 4-H County Events or an Office approved Community Service Project, record book, and presented at 4-H County Events.

Standard 4-H attire: This is the standard 4-H attire (Dress). When you represent Union County 4-H Club, or giving your presentation at Union County 4-H County Events, you will need to be dressed in the Proper attire of a Union County 4-H'er. Look sharp and be sharp!

Boys: Black pants, white shirt, 4-H lapel pin or patch, boots or dress shoes, 4-H pin/insignia, black or green tie.

Girls: Black pants or skirt, white blouse, 4-H lapel pin or patch, boots or dress shoes, 4-H pin/insignia
Black or green tie or ribbon.

Options are 4-H jacket or green vest with a 4-H patch

Union County Extension Office
25 NE 1st Street
Lake Butler, FL 32054

Non-Profit Organization
Permit No. 19
Postage Paid

Union County Extension Office

25 NE 1st Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054

Phone: (386) 496-2321 Fax: (386) 496-1111

Email: union@ifas.ufl.edu **Hours:** 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday

Basil Bactawar

Samara Deary

Kim Shaw

Amanda Rhodes

Pamela Toney

Director/Agent

FCS Agent I

FNP Program Assistant

4-H Program Assistant

Executive Secretary

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Employment Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida IFAS, Florida A&M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.