

HOMESTEAD & FARM NOTES

October 2012

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Upcoming Events & Programs

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

Oct 1ST: **Fall Forages** at Columbia County Extension Office 164 Mary Ethel Lane, Lake City from 6:30PM to 8:00PM.

Oct 2nd: **Silviculture BMP Workshop** at Columbia County Extension Office from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

Oct 3rd: **Ground Covers & Turf Alternatives** at Alachua County Extension Office 2800 NE 39th Ave., Gainesville from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

Oct 10th: **Herbs** at Alachua County Extension Office from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

Oct 11th: **Tree/Plant ID Field Day** Morningside Nature Center from 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Oct 17th: **Florida-Friendly Landscaping** at Alachua County Extension Office from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

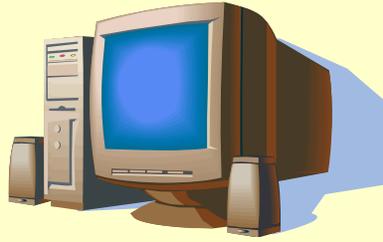
Oct. 18th: **Pond Management Update** 4:00PM to 6:30PM Bradford County FFA Farm, see enclosed flyer.

Oct 18th: **Easy Plant Propagation Techniques** at Ft. White Library at 5:45PM.

Oct 20th: **Easy Plant Propagation Techniques** at Lake City Public Library at 2:00PM.

Oct 24th: **Trees and Palms** at Alachua County Extension Office from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

Office News & Updates



Hello Readers & Producers,

Union County Ministerial Association and Florida Farm Bureau in collaboration with the Union County Extension Office will be celebrating Farm City Week on Monday, November 19, 2012 at 6:00PM at the Lake Butler Community Center. This is an opportunity for the community to get together and celebrate this wonderful event. Please bring a dish for your family and three more people. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

I would like to ask some of our readers to complete a survey for Corey Hanlon, a Master's student at the University of Florida. This student is conducting some research on how farmers perceive soil testing, through the use of a 10-minute, anonymous online survey. The sample of respondents that they are searching for includes any farmers that produce horticultural goods, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, nursery stock, sod, trees and more. If you are willing to help with the survey you can go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WYWF3YD> and you can also go to <http://www.union.ifas.ufl.edu> and the site will be posted there as well. If you would like to complete a hard copy of the survey for Corey, come by the office and one can be printed for you.

Thank You,

Basil Bactawar, Director/Agent

Union County Extension Office

Livestock & Wildlife

Beef Calendar for October:

The Fall Forage Update with recommended varieties can be accessed on the Internet at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/aa266>.

Now is the time to soil test and apply lime to your hay fields and pastures for next year, it takes a minimum of 60-90 days for lime to begin neutralizing soil acids.

Keep your mineral feeders full. Cattle require more mineral on low-quality forages to feed rumen-bacteria that break rough forages down into digestible nutrients the cow can use. If they are over-consuming mineral you can use salt to limit intake. For more information, please visit [http://union.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/Mineral Supplementation for Cattle 3-19-12.pdf](http://union.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/Mineral%20Supplementation%20for%20Cattle%203-19-12.pdf)

Check for external parasites and treat if necessary.

Watch condition of cowherd, supplement with protein and energy if necessary. Options include liquid, blocks, range cubes, grain, and distiller's grains.

Isolate any additions to your herd for 30 to 60 days and watch for signs of disease; test again for Brucellosis and Leptospirosis.

Now is a good time to look over your handling facilities, fix those broken boards, make sure the squeeze chute is working, etc...

Wildlife Happenings

Look for migrating Peregrine falcons in natural areas, especially along the coast as they follow shorebird prey.

Warbler migration peaks early this month.

Monarch Butterfly migration nears its peak along Florida's Gulf coast.

Sand hill Cranes that nested in more northern latitudes move down to join our resident birds.

Flying Squirrels will be moving into pecan groves as the nuts ripen.



Small Ruminant Corner



Photo courtesy of: Dr. Stephan A. Wildeus

This month we will focus on the Katahdin

Origin: This breed originated from Maine, U.S. from crosses of woolen breeds mainly Suffolk and later Wiltshire Horn with hair sheep from the Virgin Islands. This breed was developed after 20 years of breeding and selection.

Coat & Color: Coat can be any color or color pattern. Hair coat becomes thick and long as cold weather sets in and the length decreases. Sheds coat as temperature and day length increase. Some ewes shed coats after second lambing.

Mature Weight (Lbs.): Ewe is 120 to 160 pounds, and the Ram is 150 to 200 pounds.

Disposition & Mothering Ability: Ewes have good mothering ability and lamb easily unassisted. Good milkers, and it is suggested not to wean lambs before three months.

Environmental Adaptability: Tolerant of both high and low temperatures. Breed ideal for pasture lambing and grass/forage based management systems.

Breeding Season: Long/Extended.

Lambing Interval: Eight (8) to twelve (12) months.

Lambing Percent %: 200% in mature ewes.

Average Birth Weight: 11 pounds for singles; 8.5 pounds for twins.

Weight Gain/Daily: 0.6 pound under intensive production.

Market Weight/Live/Age: 80 to 110 pounds / 5.5 - 6 months.

Resistance to Parasites: Intermediate.

Horticulture Hints

Ornamental Shrub Concerns:

Check for Mealy Bug and Scale injury on the undersides of ornamental plant leaves (especially Camellias, Hollies and Gardenias). Soapy water and a brush can get most of the scale insects off and break that cycle of feeding all winter.

Follow this soapy water treatment with a dormant horticultural oil spray to kill overwintering eggs. Make sure you get good coverage of the underside of the leaves with the dormant oil spray.

If you haven't fertilized in September, apply some fertilizer now on shrubs.

Bulbs to Plant:

African Lily, Amaryllis, Anemone, Aztec Lily, Calla, Elephant Ears, Easter Lily, Grapy Hyacinth, Iris, Kaffir Lily, Leopard Lily, Moreae, Narcissus, Pineapple Lily, Shell Ginger, Snow Flake, Society Garlic, Spider Lily, Star-of-Bethlehem Lily, Rain Lily, Walking Iris, Watsonia.

If spring flowering bulbs have not been pre-chilled to induce flowering in Florida, you can do it yourself before planting them. Narcissus, Tulips, Daffodils, Anemone, Grape Hyacinths, etc...can be stored in your vegetable compartment in your refrigerator for 60 days. Keep them in a plastic zip bag so ethylene from fruit or vegetables doesn't cause the flower buds to abort. After 60 days, take bulbs out and plant immediately.

October is the Earliest Month to Sow Winter Pastures:

Now is the time to prepare land and plant cool season pasture. Turning the field and letting debris rot, followed by a good soil preparation before planting helps assure a better stand.

Oats, sow throughout October and up to November 15th at the rate of 3 to 4 bushels per acre. **Rye**, sow throughout October and up to November 15th at the rate of 1 ½ to 2 bushels per acre. **Italian Ryegrass**, Sow throughout October and up to November 15th at the rate of 20 to 30 pounds per acre. **Wheat**, sow throughout October and up to November 15th at the rate of 1 ½ to 2 bushels per acre.

Cool Season Vegetable to Plant: Beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collard, mustard, onions, radish, rutabaga, spinach, turnips, and strawberries can all be planted this month.

Lawn Tips

- Now is a good time to apply a "weed-and-feed" type fertilizer on lawns that have had Fireweed problems in the spring. By applying a weed-and-feed type of fertilizer this month, you can help reduce the amount of Fireweed seedling germinating.
- Look at the label and use a product that has Atrazine (not for Bahiagrass lawns) or Pendimethelin as the active ingredient, making sure the product is labeled for your type of lawn grass (Bahia vs. centipede, vs. St. Augustine Grass) so you don't injure your lawn grass.

Cool Season Wildlife Food Plot Suggestions:

Ideal plot size is 1 to 2 acres.

Plot shape is better if long instead of square (the more edge the better).

Plant one acre for every 100 acres of forest land.

Locate plots in areas that are already open or partially open (deer already used to the area being open).

Examples of good locations: Old logging decks, wooded roads, beetle-killed areas, fire breaks, and right of ways.

Plant a variety of crops to prolong food supply. Mixed crops are better than a single plant species. If you are going to plant clovers and haven't limed in three years, apply one ton of Dolomite per acre and harrow it in now. For those of you who have the time to do it right, call me to pull a soil sample, wait the two weeks for the test results, then lime and fertilize accordingly. Be sure to drag or pack plot area after you have broadcast seed on harrowed soil (especially important to lightly pack/drag soil if you planted clovers to keep seedling from drying out on soil surface). You can make a drag by using an old chain-like fence wire.

Once all grains are up, apply fertilizer (follow soil test recommendations).

Use oats and wheat as an early attractant in your blend of seed.



4-H Happenings



Now that you are all set for another year in 4-H, some things you will need to keep in mind:

UNIOIN COUNTY 4-HER 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, 2012.
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 does 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, 2012.
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*****

