

# Homestead & Farm Notes

## 4-H Happenings

*October 2013*

*www.solutionsforyourlife.com*



### In This Issue

Livestock & Wildlife

Small Ruminant Corner

Horticulture Hints

4-H Happenings

### Upcoming Events & Programs

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

**October 9<sup>th</sup>:** **Converting to Florida Friendly Landscaping to Save Water** at the Alachua County Extension Office from 6:30PM to 7:30PM. Please call (352) 337-6209 to pre-register.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>:** **North Florida Cattlemen's Association Quarterly Meeting** at Arky Rogers 8355 South US Hwy 441, Lake City. Please RSVP by noon on October 8<sup>th</sup> by calling (386) 752-5384.

**October 21<sup>st</sup>:** **Small Ruminant Workshop** at Shepard's Hill Farm Lake City, from 4:00PM to 7:30PM. Please pre-register by October 16<sup>th</sup> by calling (386) 752-5384. Flyer enclosed.

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>:** **Fall Edible Natives** at the Clay County Extension Office from 9:30AM to Noon. Cost \$5-covers lunch. Call (904) 284-6355 by October 18<sup>th</sup> to pre-register.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>:** **Food Preservation Class** at the Baker County Extension Office from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. Please call (904) 259-3520 for more information and to pre-register.

# Livestock & Wildlife

## Beef Calendar for October:

- 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.
- 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...

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

### Wildlife Happenings for October

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.



**Golden winged Warbler**



# 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, 2013.
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, 2013.
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



# Small Ruminant Corner



## Feeding Mineral to Goat

Basil Bactawar, County Extension Director/Agent

Feeding mineral to goats is important because forages and shrubs in Florida do not have enough minerals to meet their nutrient requirements. Minerals can be classified into macro minerals and micro minerals. Macro minerals are calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and potassium. Micro minerals include iron, zinc, copper, manganese, iodine, selenium, and cobalt. A commercial goat supplement is recommended for any goat operation. It is important that the calcium to phosphorus ratio be 1.5-2 parts of calcium to 1 part of phosphorus in the diet. The maintenance of this ratio is important to prevent urinary calculi. Furthermore, it is recommended that only one mineral supplement be offered to the herd. Feeding two or more sources of minerals at the farm can lead to over-supply of minerals. This can lead to mineral toxicity. Sheep have a lower requirement for copper compared to goats. It is not advisable to feed a sheep mineral supplement to goats. Furthermore, horses have a lower requirement for iodine than goats, so do not feed horse minerals to goats. Provide free choice mineral formulated for goats.

# 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 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 over-wintering eggs. Make sure you get good coverage of the underside of the leaves with the dormant oil spray.

## Bulbs to Plant:

African Lily, Amaryllis, Anemone, Aztec Lily, Calla, Elephant Ears, Easter Lily, Grape 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 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 pastures. 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 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of 3 to 4 bushels per acre.

**Rye**, sow throughout October and up to November 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of 1 ½ to 2 bushels per acre.

**Italian Ryegrass**, sow throughout October and up to November 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of 20 to 30 pounds per acre. **Wheat**, sow throughout October and up to November 15<sup>th</sup> at the rate of 1 ½ to 2 bushels per acre.

Cool Season Vegetables to Plant: Beets, broccoli, Brussels sprout, 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 use 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 in 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).

# SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP

(Sheep and Goats)

**OCTOBER 21, 2013 • 4PM UNTIL 7:30PM**

**SHEPHERD'S HILL FARM**  
673 SW ICHETUCKNEE AVE, LAKE CITY, FL

Hosted by the Northeast Florida Livestock Agents Group (NFLAG)



## TOPICS INCLUDE

FORAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR SMALL RUMINANTS

TOXIC PLANTS

SMALL RUMINANT NUTRITION

MEAT GOAT ENTERPRISE BUDGETS

PARASITE CONTROL

**DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED.**

Registration is \$5.00 and should be confirmed by  
October 16<sup>th</sup> by calling the UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County Office at 386-752-5384.

An Equal Opportunity Institution



[nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu](http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu)

**Union County Extension Office**

**25 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Lake Butler, FL 32054**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**Permit No. 19**

**Postage Paid**

**Contact Information**

**Union County Extension Office  
25 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Lake Butler, FL 32054**

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

**Email: [union@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:union@ifas.ufl.edu) Hours: 8:00AM - 4:30PM Monday-Friday**

*Basil Bactawar, MSc  
Director/Agent*

*Colan Coody  
4-H Program Assistant*

*Pamela Toney  
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.