



Lake County
Extension Service
1951 Woodlea Rd.
Tavares, FL 32778
(352) 343-4101
cfextension.ifas.ufl.edu

January – March 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

Happy New Year I hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. In the next couple of months I will be holding several educational seminars so please mark your calendars to attend. As the prices of fuel and feed continue to rise, we all need to look for and adopt new management practices that will help us cut back on the cost of owning and raising livestock and forages. Agricultural land is disappearing from our state. If you would like to learn what you can do to protect and preserve your property, please attend Protecting Your Assets & Beneficiaries February 5, here at the Lake County Extension Office. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Martha Thomas'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word 'Sincerely,'.

Martha Thomas
marthat@ufl.edu

Property Tour for Forest Landowners at Tree-Top Lodge

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 - Meet at 9:00 a.m.

Venture in to the largest concentration of sand pine in the world! Tree-Top Lodge, on 42 in Lake County, is surrounded by the 400,000 acre Ocala National Forest. See how with the help of the Forest Stewardship Program, the Palmers have created fire breaks, planted food plots, built brush piles, established wildlife corridors, managed timber, and are leaving a legacy for their family to remember for many years to come. This will be a walking tour of trails, firebreaks, wildlife corridors, and balm for the soul!

A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour. This is a free program for property owners wanting to learn about forest stewardship, but you must pre-register. Contact Martha Thomas 352-343-4101.

From SR 19 in Altoona travel east on CR 42 through Paisley. Travel 5 miles past Paisley, and ¼ mile past Deer Haven Rd. to 30019 CR 42 on the left (North). Look for the “Tree-Top Lodge” sign and green gate.

25th Annual Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show

**“Keys to Profitability”
Nutrition, Health and Management for Reproduction**

January 17, 2008

8:00 a.m. Trade Show Opens

Osceola Heritage Park 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane off HWY 192

Welcome...Larry Rooks, FCA President

Soil Fertility Management for Forage Crops...Dr. Maria Silveria

Are You Prepared for the Winter?...Dr. Joao Vendramini

Forage Analysis For Beef Cattle: Why, How and So What... Dr. Matt Hersom

Least Cost Production... Randy Blach, Cattle Fax

Lunch

Basic Management That Returns Dollars (Bulls & Other Reproductive Tactics to Improve Profitability)... Dr. Cliff Lamb

Producer Panel- Effective, Least Cost Production... Our Perspective

Carl McKettrick, Market Owner, Cattle Buyer

Hal Phillips, D.V.M., Veterinarian/Producer

Dan Dorn, Supply Development Decatur County Feedyards

Mike Milicevic, General Manager Lykes Ranch

AGRItunity 2008

January 26, 2008

**West Central Florida Agriculture Center
Sumter County Fairgrounds**

What: Don't miss this conference and trade show uniquely tailored for large and small scale agricultural operations. Learn about the latest in agricultural technology and business trends.

Where: West Central Florida Agricultural Center, Sumter County Fairgrounds, 7620 SR 471 Bushnell, FL 33513

When: Saturday, January 26, 2008, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Who: Beginner to more experienced small or large scale farmers

How: Complete the registration form online at <http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu> and forward your payment to:

Sumter County Extension,

7620 SR 471, Suite 2, Bushnell, FL 33513.

Cost: The conference fee is \$10 for early registration and \$15 at the door. The fee includes refreshments and workshops. Students wearing 4H or FFA apparel will be admitted free.

Complete details can be found at:

http://sumter.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort_MG/new_programs.shtml#agritunity



Natural Horsemanship Clinic

February 2, 2008

1-3 p.m. Brown's Arena, Mount Dora

Whether you are going down a new trail in the woods for a trail ride or entering a new arena with your show horse, there are situations that arise where your horse must remember that you are his leader and he/she needs to look for you for guidance and not over react. During this year's clinic, we will cover riding techniques that help you to effectively communicate with your horse and have a better riding experience.

Must Register and send in payment by January 18, 2008 (Call or email Martha)
Class only holds 20 horses so call early to register.

- No Stallions
- \$25 With Horse
- \$10 Auditors
- 4-H Members and 1 Leader per club free
- Current Coggins required for registration



Lake County Fire Prevention Awareness Day

10:00 a.m. till Noon February 23, 2008
Paisley Community Center State Road 42

- Learn what you can do to make your house more "firewise"
- Learn about prescribed burns and fuels sources
- Fire Wise Landscaping & Keeping Livestock Safe
- Meet a Firefighter
- Hot Dogs and Refreshments
- Come and see Smokey The Bear

Protecting Your Assets & Beneficiaries

Inheritance Tax Laws, Estate Planning, Conservation Easements

February 5, 2008, 9 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Lake County Extension Office
1951 Woodlea Road
Tavares, FL 32778

9:30 Welcome... Martha Thomas, Lake County Livestock/Natural Resource Agent
9:40 Cattle Industry and Private Land Owner Update... Florida Cattlemen's Association Officer
10:00 Estate Planning and Taxes John Feldman... Attorney At Law, Board Certified Wills, Trusts and Estates
11:45 How Conservation Easements and Agriculture Work Together...TBA
12:30 Lunch
1:30 Conservation Easement Options... Ellen Huntley Dube, Conservation Trust For Florida

Registration: \$15.00 per person (includes lunch and reference material). Make checks payable to: Lake County Agricultural Advisory. Mail Check to: Lake County Extension Office 1951 Woodlea Road Tavares, FL 32778. R.S.V.P to Maggie Jarrell 352-343-4101 by January 29, 2008

USDA announces Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) 12/03/2007

Laura Langford, County Executive Director, announces applications are being accepted now through a date unknown at this time for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) at your local Farm Service Agency located at 1725 David Walker Drive, Suite B, in Tavares. LCP is offered to compensate eligible livestock and catfish producers who suffered feed losses or incurred additional feed cost as a result of the 2006 drought. Eligible livestock include dairy and beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, swine or deer. Livestock must have been maintained for commercial use as part of a farming operation on 3/1/06. To be eligible, you must have either owned or cash leased the livestock on 3/1/06. There is a maximum payment limitation of \$80,000 per "person" under LCP.

The two eligible beef categories are based on inventory **as of 3/1/06** as follows:

Category 1 - cows/bulls (a heifer bred as of 3/1/06 can be considered a cow under LCP)

Category 2 - beef animals over 500# that do not meet the cow/bull definition

Any beef animals under 500# as of 3/1/06 are not eligible. Eligible payments will be issued within 30 days of county office approval. For more information about LCP or any other FSA program, please visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Due to limited staffing, appointments are required to file an application. Please call 352-343-2581 for more information or to make your appointment

Hay and Forage Producers Seminar

February 28, 2008

6:30 p.m. Lake County Extension Office

What you can do to increase the quality of your hay

Nitrogen Fertilizer Sources

Weed Control

Dinner Sponsored by Triangle Chemical, Groveland

2007 Census of Agriculture

The 2007 Census of Agriculture is going out this month. It is very important that every farm that has \$1000 or more of agricultural products sold fill out the survey. The census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every country in the nation. Through the census, producers show the nation the value and importance of agriculture, and they can help influence decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture of years to come. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all of U.S. agriculture. If you don't receive one in the mail, come by the Lake County Ag Center to pick one up!

Beef Management Calendar

January

- Apply lime for summer crops.
- Check for lice and treat if necessary.
- Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately six inches high. Rye should be 12-18 inches high.
- Check mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out for October calving season.
- Make up breeding herd lists if using single sire herds.
- Watch for calf scours.
- Give bulls extra feed and care so they will be in condition for breeding season.
- Make sure cow herd has access to adequate fresh water.
- Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- Get taxes filed.
- Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
- Review herd health program with your veterinarian regularly.
- Carry a pocket notebook to record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings and other data.
- Observe cow herd for calving difficulties.
- Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been previous problem (if you are not already using a high magnesium mineral).
- Examine bulls for breeding soundness and semen quality prior to the breeding season.
- Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

February

- Top dress winter forages, if needed.

- Check and fill mineral feeders.
- Put bulls out with breeding herd.
- Work calves (identify, implant with growth stimulant, vaccinate, etc.).
- Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- Watch calves for signs of respiratory diseases.
- Cull cows that failed to calve while prices are seasonally up.
- Check for lice and treat if needed.

March

- Fertilize pasture to stimulate early growth and get fertilizer incorporated in grass roots while there is still good soil moisture.
- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest if needed.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Make sure calves are healthy and making good weight gains.
- Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant, and work late calves.
- Put bulls out March 1st for calving season to start December 9.
- Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1.

Calendar of Events

January

- 8- Tree-Top Lodge Forest Stewardship Property Tour 9:00 a.m. start
- 8- Ocala Bull Sale, 12 Noon, Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
- 17- Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Trade Show, 8:00 a.m., Kissimmee
- 23- Lake Soil and Water Tree Give Away, 11:00 a.m., Lake Extension Office
- 26- Agritunity, West Central Florida Agricultural Center, 8:00 a.m.

February

- 1- All Breed Bull Sale, 1:00 p.m. Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Lakeland
- 2- Natural Horsemanship Program, Brown's Arena. RSVP to Martha by 1-22-07
- 2- Lake County Cattlemen's Association Dinner & Annual Meeting, Lake County Extension Office 5:30p.m.
- 4- Return 2007 Census of Agriculture- This is your chance to share your voice.
- 5- Estate Planning Seminar, 9:00 a.m., Lake County Extension Office
- 23- Fire Awareness, 10:00 a.m. - Noon, Paisley Community Center
- 28- Forage/Hay Producers Meeting, Lake County Extension Office, 6:30 p.m.

March

- 1- 4-H Horse Show

The Institute of Food and Agriculture is an Equal Employment Opportunity – Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.