



Lake County
Extension Service
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Greetings

I hope you all are having a great summer hopefully you are receiving some much needed rainfall. As feed and fuel prices rise agriculturalists must stay abreast of any information that will help them to save money or earn an extra dollar. I have tried to put together some timely information that will help you save money in your operation so please take the time to read this newsletter and call or email me if you have questions about any programs that I have mentioned.

Sincerely

Martha Thomas
Lake County Livestock/Natural Resource Agent

Upcoming Events

July

- 10-31 Summer Equine Workshop, Ag Center Tavares
- 10-12 State 4-H Horse Show, Tampa
- 19- Equine Training & Trailer Loading

August

- 16- Lake County Cattlemen's Junior Rodeo
- 18-21- Reproductive Management School Deseret Ranch

September

- 12- Wildlife Management Seminar & Field Day
- 18- Equine Institute
- 20- State Fair Educational
- 25- Hay Field Day
- 27- Equipment & Tack Swap Lake County Fair Grounds

USDA/Farm Service Agency NEWS!

If you are a livestock, hay, or seed producer please keep in mind that the FSA (Farm Service Agency) has the NAP (Non-insured crop disaster assistance program) to assist farmers with drought and damaging storms that cause a loss to your production. They are also offering the LCP (Livestock Compensation Program) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) LIP which provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock because of a natural disaster. LCP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs because of a natural disaster. The deadline for these programs is July 18, 2008. The FSA office will also be nominating a new board member from north Lake County this year so if you know of a good candidate please get the appropriate form to nominate a board member. These forms must be turned in by August 1, 2008

To get on the mailing list please call Shelli Cox at 352-343-2581 ext. 2. The office is located at 1725 David Walker Drive, Ste. B Tavares, FL 32778



Marketing Meat Goats

As with any other product you must have a viable market to sell your products. One option is selling the goats on the farm to local families. This way you do not have the cost of hauling and traveling to a market or harvesting facility. Goat meat which is also called “Chevon” or “Cabrito” is not a popular meat in the United States with most families however to Muslims and Hispanics goat meat is a special meal. It is served at many holiday celebrations. The Muslim population consumes approximately 75% of the goat meat consumed in the United States. The Hispanic

population also plays a large role in the marketing of meat goats. As of July 2007, Florida had 3.8 million Hispanics giving Florida the 3rd largest Hispanic population in the United States. Therefore, we do have a market for meat goats, and producers need to advertise to local buyers. The best way to do this is to advertise in local papers or the Florida Market Bulletin http://www.florida-agriculture.com/fmb/view_ads.htm. Also signs or flyers with your phone number could be placed in communities with a high population of Muslim’s or Hispanic’s.

Being that these groups are especially fond of goat meat it would help producers to plan there breeding seasons around there holidays so that producers can meet the demands of local customers. These holidays also maybe a good opportunity to review your culling program and cull some of the older thinner animals. Young male goats weighing between 50 and 70 pounds are most desirable. It is not possible to check your calendar for Muslim holidays because the Muslim calendar is lunar and based on the sightings of the new moon therefore the dates change each year. Producers can contact Dar’adh-Dhikr Mosque, 4312 Rosedale Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814 to get future calendar dates.

However; the Hispanic Holidays are very similar to ours. Animals harvested for these holidays are generally purchased and shipped about 7 to 19 days prior to the holiday. Another way to meet the demand for meat goat is to visit local butcher shops that specialize in goat meat such as Ali Meat Industry which is located at 1616 South Dean Road Orlando FL 32825 and can also be contacted at 407-277-9483 <http://www.alimeat.com/eng.html>. Below is a table with future Muslim holidays so that you can plan on advertising your goats

prior to these holidays. After you establish relationships with clientele they will spread the word to family and friends and send you new customers.

Ethnic Holiday Calendar

Holiday	2008	2009	2010	2011
Eid ul-Adha Festival of Sacrifice	8-Dec	28-Nov	17-Nov	7-Nov
Muharramm/ Islamic New Year	10-Jan	---	8-Dec	8-Dec
Mawlid al-Nabi Prophet's Birthday	20-Mar	9-Mar	26-Feb	20-Mar
Start of Ramadan Month of Fasting	2-Sep	22-Aug	11-Aug	24-Sep
Eid ul-Fitr Festival of Fast Breaking	2-Oct	21-Sep	10-Sep	24-Oct
Passover/ Pesach	April 20-27	April 9-16	Mar 30-Apr 6	Apr 19-20
Rash Hashanah	30-Sep	19-Sep	9-Sep	Sep 29-30
Chanukah	Dec 22-29	Dec 12-19	Dec 2-9	Dec 21-28
Western Roman Easter	23-Mar	12-Apr	4-Apr	24-Apr
Eastern Orthodox Easter	27-Apr	19-Apr	4-Apr	24-Apr
Christmas	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec	25-Dec

Information from this article came from Goat and Lamb Holidays

<http://bedford.extension.psu.edu/agriculture/Lessons/Goat%20and%20Lamb%20Holidays.htm>

Army Worm Season Is Here

Army Worm season is here if you are not aware of what army worms are just fertilize your pasture and you will see them in your fields as there will be lush green grass one day and the next it will be gone with just the stems left. So if you fertilize pasture make sure to scout daily for army worms. Simply walk around field and push grass back with hand and look down for green and brown worms on the ground and or on the blades of grass. Many times striped grass loopers will be found in mixed populations with the fall armyworm. Grass loopers however prefer Bermuda grass and stargrass however when high populations are present all grass species can be damaged.



Army worm on left and Grass Looper on right

If you do happen to discover that Army Worms have invaded your pasture you need to decide if it is feasible to spray. This is done by examining ten (10) one (1) square foot areas randomly across the field. You should count the number of worms in each area and record if they are less than ½ inch or greater than ½ inch in length. If most worms are less than ½ inch in length treatment is usually justified because removing the larvae will prevent additional damage. Unfortunately if they are over ½ inch in length and are nearly full grown, treatment may not be needed as the larvae are near the end of there feeding period and are about to pupate.

After all samples have been taken calculate the average number of small and large larvae per square foot for the field. If the field has not been previously treated, chemical control is usually justified if an average of 3-4 small larvae per square foot is found. If the field has been previously treated, control is justified if an average of 2 small larvae per square foot is found. Infestation is usually found in small isolated areas therefore frequent inspection is critical so that you can spray these areas before the army worms spread therefore saving labor, diesel, and insecticide. Below is a table of insecticides that can be used, use lower rates for light infestation, light forage cover, and smaller stages of pests. Apply higher rates to heavy infestations, dense forage cover and mature states of pests. Make sure to follow directions on material for restrictions.

Table 1. Chemical control recommendations for Army Worms, Grass Loopers and other Caterpillars

Trade Name (Common Name)	Rate	Min Days to Harvest and Restrictions
Dimilin 2L (diflubenzuron)	2.0 oz per acre	No more than 6 fl oz per year
Malathion 57% EC	2 pt per acre	0
Seven XLR or 4f (carbaryl)	1-1.5qt per acre	14
Tracer (spinosad)	1-2 fl oz per acre	3 hay or fodder; no pre-harvest interval for forage.

Information from this article came from Insect Management in Pasture <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IG061>

Reproductive Management School held at Deseret Ranch August 18-21, 2008

Do you want to have a more productive cattle herd and get rid of the free loaders? Yes, I know she is pretty and every other year she has a nice heifer but did you ever stop to think she is passing that poor reproductive performance to her offspring. This summer is your opportunity to learn how to lose the free loaders and start making more \$\$\$ per cow. On August 18-21 the Central Florida Livestock Agents Group will be holding a four day class where you will get the opportunity to learn to pregnancy check cattle. You will also learn about other important aspects of managing a cow herd. This is a very unique opportunity at a very low price for what you will learn so if you would like to attend please call me to register.

Hay Field Day

September 25

If you are in the hay business I hope you will come out and have a look at the new John Deere and New Holland Hay equipment being demonstrated at the field day being held this fall. We will be having field demonstrations and producer discussions about current hay bailing practices. We will also discuss different forage varieties and spraying recommendations.

Call to RSVP and find out location

Legumes vs. High Nitrogen Prices



With fertilizer prices at an all time high legumes may be a viable option to maintain the nitrogen your soil needs. Forage legumes can be planted here in Florida on our sandy soils as a cover crop and they can function as a slow release fertilizer. These legumes will also enhance the soils organic matter. Legumes have the unique ability to associate with certain soil bacteria (rhizobia) that fix atmospheric nitrogen. They may add between 20 to 150lbs N/acre per season, depending on legume type, growing conditions and symbiotic N-fixing bacteria present in the soil. The forage produced from legumes is also higher in protein and much more palatable to livestock. Below is a table of summer, winter and perennial legumes that are

options here in Florida. Before deciding which legume is right for you determine which legume would do the best with the soil in the location you plan to plant? Below is a table with biomass production per acre, Nitrogen yield per acre, seeding rate, and seeding date. If you have any other questions about a specific legume please let me know and I will get you the fact sheet pertaining to the legume you are interested in.

Legume	Yield - Biomass (lbs/acre)	Yield N (lbs/acre)	Seeding rate (lbs/acre)	Seeding Date
Annual Summer				
Aeschynomene	2000 - 4000	50-100	6-8 ²	Mar. 1 - June 30
Alyce clover	1500-3500	20-65	15-20	Mar. 1 - June 30
Cowpeas	2000 - 4500	50-90	6-8 ²	Mar. 1 - June 30
Hairy Indigo	4500-9000	80-150	6 - 10	Mar. 1 - July 15
Velvetbeans	2200 - 4000	50-85	30-50	Mar. 1 - June 30
Perennial Summer				
Rhizoma Peanut (living mulch)	2000-6000 (12-months)	50-130	80-100 ³ (bs. rhizomes)	Jan. 15 - March 15 and July
Annual Winter				
Crimson Clover	1500-4500	35-120	30-45	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15
Hairy Vetch	1500-5500	35-150	20-30	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15
Lupine	2000-4500	45-120	30-45	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15
Red Clover				

This table and information was received from Dr. Yoana Newman the Forage Specialist at University of Florida Agronomy Department

Biological Mole Cricket Control

If you are having a problem with mole crickets in your pasture or are afraid that you may have a problem in the future consider planting some Larraflower seeds these plants help sustain the L. bicolor wasp which is a natural enemy of the mole cricket. Land owners in south Lake County have had great success with the plants attracting the wasps.

For more information go to:

<http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/projects/molecricket1.shtml>

Or you can contact me to obtain seeds.