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Greetings,

Hope you are all having a great spring. I always look forward to the spring when the grass starts growing and turkeys start gobbling. This spring I have lots of great programs planned everything from hunting to horse back riding. So take a look at the up coming events and get them on your calendar so you can join in on some great learning opportunities.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a farm consultation please call at 352-343-4101 or email at marthat@ufl.edu.

Sincerely,

Martha Thomas

Lake County Livestock/Natural Resource Agent

Up Coming Events

April

2nd-11th Lake County Fair

16th- 9:00 a.m. Cattle & Forage Field Day, Range Cattle Research & Education Center, Ona

25th- 8:30 a.m. 2009 Natural Horsemanship Program Lake County Landfill, registration form enclosed.

29th-1st- Florida Beef Cattle Short Course, Hilton University of Florida, Gainesville flyer enclosed.

May

14- 6:15 p.m. Improving Wildlife Habitat, Lake County Extension Office, Tavares RSVP by May 8th.

June

2nd- 6:30 p.m. Planting Pastures for Livestock, Lake County Extension Office, Tavares RSVP by May 29.

11th- 6:30 p.m. Meat Goat Seminar, Lake County Extension Office, Tavares RSVP by June 5.

15th -18th- Florida Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention & Trade Show, Marco Island.

What Type of Fertilizer Should I Use?



If you are wondering what mixture of fertilizer does my pasture need? Well it is really simple all you need to do is a soil sample which will tell you exactly how many pounds of each nutrient that you need. Using this information will save you money and protect the environment because you are only putting out nutrients that the grass needs to grow.

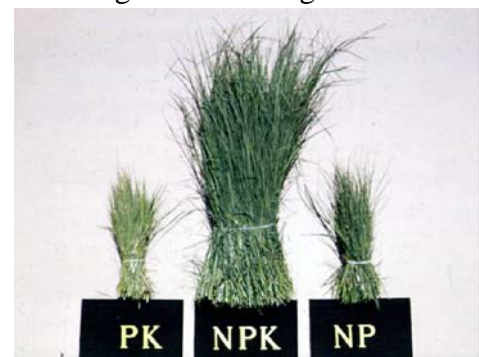
If your pasture is missing a major nutrient other nutrients are lost. That is why you need to find out what is already in the soil prior to fertilizing. For instance many pastures are lacking in potassium which is the last number in a fertilizer mixture (20-5-10). Therefore your results may say you need 40 pounds per acre of potassium, no phosphorus, and 80 pounds of nitrogen for the amount of growth you want. In this instance a mixture of 20-0-10 at 400 pounds per acre would give you 80 pounds of

Nitrogen and 40 pounds of potassium.

As the picture below illustrates you must have a balance of nutrients to get maximum growth potential.

Steps for taking a soil sample

- Sample the soil to the depth of tillage, which is six to eight inches.
- Collect at least 15 to 20 soil cores from each area.
- Mix the soil cores in a clean plastic bucket.
- Spread the soil on clean paper or other suitable



material to air dry. (Do not send wet samples.)

- Mix the dry soil and place about one pint of it in a labeled sample bag.
- Fill out the information sheet for each soil sample.
- Send the soil samples and information sheet to the laboratory.

Soil test results will be sent to you within five to ten days after your sample arrives at the laboratory.

Forms can be found at:

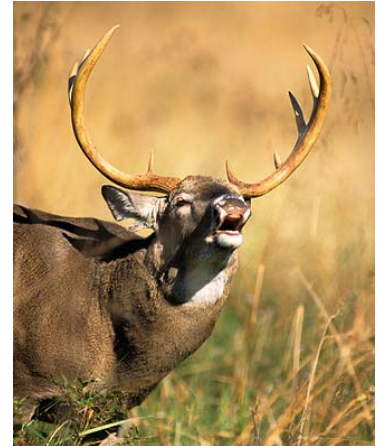
<http://soilslab.ifas.ufl.edu/ESTL%20Pages/ESTLAnalysis.htm>

Improving Wildlife Habitat May 14, 2008

If you want to improve the wildlife habitat on your land and make money off of your wildlife resources then this is the program for you.

Registration 6:15pm

6:30 p.m. **“Setting Up Hunting Lease on Your Property”**- Dr. William Giuliano, Professor & Extension Specialist from the Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida



7:15 p.m. **“Planting Food Plots for Wildlife”**- Martha Thomas, Livestock and Natural Resource Agent University of Florida

Weed Control

If you are battling weeds in your pasture you should consider a Herbicide application which can be much more economically feasible than mowing. Mowing in most cases does not kill the root of the weed. When selecting a herbicide you need to make sure you are using the right amount of chemical at the right time. This means to calibrate the sprayer which is demonstrated in the article below.

There are lots of good chemicals that are available for controlling weeds in permanent pastures without harming your grass. For the most effective control of the weed you are trying to control please refer to the Weed Management in Pasture and Range Land- 2009
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG006>

The next most critical rule is to make sure you put the herbicide out when the weeds are actively growing. This means they are not drought stressed. Drought stressed plants will not absorb the herbicide and get the desired control you are looking for. One of the most common weeds in Florida pastures are dog fennels which can be controlled with Weedmaster at 3 pints per acre when the weeds are 12-18” tall.

Boom Sprayer Calibration

1. Determine nozzle spacing.
2. Refer to chart to determine calibration course:



Nozzle Spacing	Calibration Course
15"	272'
18"	227'
20"	204'
22"	186'
24"	170'

To determine calibration course for a nozzle spacing not listed, divide 340 by the spacing expressed in feet. Example: 19 inch nozzle spacing $19/12$ is 1.58" $340/1.58= 215$ feet course.

3. Measure and stake off the appropriate calibration course based on nozzle spacing. The course should be the same type of ground that will be sprayed. (Speeds may be faster on roads than on sod, changing the application rate.)
4. Drive the course in the gear and rpm you will use when actually spraying. Record the time in seconds. Do this twice and average the time.
5. Park the tractor and maintain the same rpm. Turn on the sprayer and catch the water from one nozzle for exactly the same number of seconds that it took to drive the calibration course.
6. Ounces caught = gallons per acre
7. Check all nozzles. Flow rates should not vary more than 10% among all nozzles. Clean or replace any nozzles that do not fall into this range.

Florida Farmers/Handlers Eligible for Organic Certification Reimbursement

GAINESVILLE, FL - Florida Certified Organic Growers and Consumers, Inc. (FOG) is accepting applications from certified organic growers and handlers in Florida for reimbursement of up to 75 percent of certification costs, or a maximum of \$750. Reimbursement for certification costs paid between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009, will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are depleted. The deadline for submitting applications is October 15, 2009.

To qualify for the organic certification cost share reimbursement, an operator must have certified organic farm or production facilities in Florida, must hold an organic certificate issued by a USDA accredited certification agency issued between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009, and must not have previously received cost share reimbursement for the same period.

FOG is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that began in 1989 to promote organic and sustainable agriculture and healthy and just food systems, working diligently to educate producers, consumers, media, institutions and governments about the benefits of organic and sustainable agriculture. The Certification Cost Share Program and the Organic Transition Program that offers free crop advisors for growers interested in transitioning to organic production are programs FOG operates to encourage growers and handlers to become certified organic producers. FOG also offers workshops nationally and internationally on transitioning to organic production. It is the hope that the Certification Cost Share Program will aid growers who have been reluctant to get certified because of the cost associated.

For additional information, including the cost share program application, visit www.foginfo.org, call 352.377.6345 or email fog@foginfo.org.

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