



Volume 4, Issue 3

July – September 2009

Upcoming Events

July

9-30 Summer Equine Workshop, Lake County Extension Office Mail registration form by 7/7/09

11- Lake County Cattlemen's Association Show Calf Sale Tootle's Ranch contact Joey Tootle for more information 352-267-3082

29-31- Farm to Fuel Summit, Orlando http://floridafarmtofuel.com/summit_2009.htm

August

1-2- Small Farms Conference

<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/floridasmallfarmsconference/index.htm>

3- Deadline to nominate farmers and ranchers for Farm Service Agency County Committee

7-8- FL Junior Cattlemen's Assoc. State Beef Show Kissimmee

<http://www.floridacattlemen.org/d/2009FloridaJuniorCattlemenShowrules.pdf>

19- Special Feeder Calf Sale Cattlemen's Livestock Market contact Dave or Mike for consignment forms (863)665-5088 cattlemenslivestock@earthlink.net

September

10- Wildlife Management Field Day, Dade City Barthle Brothers Ranch contact Martha Thomas to register.

17- Florida Equine Institute, Ocala Southeaster Livestock Pavilion contact Mark Shuffitt to register (352) 671-8400

25- Florida Cattlemen's Association Annual Heifer Sale, Arcadia Stockyard contact James Stice for more information 863-899-4869

29- Hay Field Day contact Martha to register and get location.



What is the Value of Purchased Hay?

By Martha Thomas

Hay producers and buyers need to know how to analyze hay that is being produced and purchased. This can be done by sending your hay to:

Forage Extension Laboratory
UF/IFAS, Range Cattle REC
3401 Experiment Station
Ona, FL 33865

Providing livestock with good quality hay will reduce the amount of supplemental feeds thus reduce feeding costs. High quality hay will be consumed and not wasted and will meet the animals nutrient needs.

Crude Protein (CP)- the nitrogen and amino acids in feeds. Adequate CP concentrations in the forage are dependent on management and forage species.

Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN): represents the energy concentration in the forage, the sum of digestible fiber, starch, sugars, protein, and fat in the forage. Energy is the nutrient required by cattle in the greatest amount and usually accounts for the largest proportion of feed costs.

Type	Crude Protein	Total Digestible Nutrients
Hybrid Bermuda	10-14	52-58
Common Bermuda	9-11	50-56
Bahia	9-11	50-60
Ryegrass	10-16	56-62
Alfalfa	17-22	57-62

Points to remember:

- Hay must be fertilized prior to each cutting with at least 80 pounds of Nitrogen per acre in addition to having proper phosphorus, and potassium.
- Bermuda grass should be harvested every 3 to 5 weeks in order to maintain high feed intakes of high-quality forage. Quality of grass drops off drastically if harvest is delayed.
- Not only does digestibility and crude protein value decrease with increasing age at harvest, but animal intake decreases as well.



Take Those Bulls Out

By Martha Thomas

Advantages to a controlled breeding season:

- **Improved Marketing**- a larger, more uniform calf crop in terms of age and weight will receive premiums when sold.
- **More effective use of production records**- make sure cows are producing on a regular interval (every 12 months) also compare calves for comparable growth.
- **Improved Cow Herd Nutrition**- restricted period for calving enables cattlemen to better utilize feed resources. During breeding season they can count on feeding only lactating cows, instead of feeding both wet and dry cows.
- **Improved Herd Health and Management**- Procedures such as vaccination, castration, dehorning, implanting, ear tagging, deworming, and pregnancy testing are all more easily implemented within a controlled breeding season.

A short breeding season of 90 days or less is recommended. The bottom line is a short breeding season is usually more profitable than a long, sustained breeding season. Summer born calving should be avoided in the state of Florida. (Summer-born calves are those born from mid-May to early September.) Reason being is the decreased health and growth potential of calves. Calves born during the summer months weigh much less at weaning than calves born in fall or spring. Heat, insects, internal parasites, and poor pastures (together with younger age at weaning) make summer calving undesirable. *Avoid summer calves!*

To start a controlled breeding plan the first thing you need is a well-fenced bull pasture to confine the herd bull(s) during the off season. Then take the bull out. The desirable breeding season for Central Florida is Late January- May. Factors such as marketing strategies, labor and feed supplies, and seasonal weather patters must be considered when choosing a breeding season, relative to the calving season.

If you need help putting together a breeding plan for your cattle just let me know and I would be glad to put together a plan for your ranch.



Dimilin® - An Economical Insecticide for Grass Worm Control

Dr. Paul Mislevy, Professor Emeritis - Range Cattle REC, University of Florida/IFAS

Fall Armyworm larva

Credits: J. Castner, University of Florida/IFAS

During the past twenty years bermudagrass and stargrass acreage has increased dramatically for both pasture and hay production. These grasses produce high dry matter yields, have good quality, are persistent, and will grow under cool short day conditions when managed properly. However, during late summer and fall, grass loopers, army worms, and even sod webworms can destroy these grasses if not controlled. Standard insecticides, typically are not persistent when applied during Florida's rainy season. A study was conducted to compare two new insecticides (Dimilin® and Tracer®) with the standards Sevin® and Lannate®. The experiment consisted of two grasses 'Ona' and 'Florona' stargrass. Both grasses were clean mowed to a 3" stubble and fertilized with 50-30-60 lb/A N-P2O5-K2O plus micronutrients in mid-August. When grasses attained a height of about 12" the following insecticide treatments were applied: Sevin® XLR, Tracer® 2SC, Lannate® 4LV and Dimilin® 2L. Crop oil at a rate of 1 pt/30 gal water was included with the insecticide. An untreated check was used to evaluate the effectiveness of each of the insecticides.

An average of 11.0 and 8.4 worms per sq. ft. were found in 'Ona' and 'Florona' stargrass, respectively, prior to application of insecticides (Table 1). All insecticides provided excellent worm control 5 days after treatment (DAT). Worm number for Sevin, Tracer, and Lannate treatments averaged 0 to 0.2 worms/sq.ft. for both grasses (Table 1). Worm population for the 'Dimilin' treatment was slightly higher averaging 1 worm/sq.ft., indicating its activity on worms is slightly slower. All insecticides continued to provide good worm control 9 DAT. However, monitoring the worm population 15 DAT revealed worm number increased for the Sevin and Lannate treatments averaging 6.3 and 11.5, respectively in Ona stargrass and 3.5 and 4.3 worms/sq.ft., respectively in Florona stargrass. During this 15 day period 2.6" of rain fell, which may have diluted the chemical and limited its effectiveness to less than 2 weeks. Both insecticides killed all the worms along with beneficial insects allowing moth deposited eggs to develop into a new worm population in approximately 10 to 14 DAT. Consequently these two insecticides only provide worm control for no more than two weeks. The insecticides Tracer and Dimilin averaged 1.8 and 2.2 worms/sq.ft. (Ona stargrass) and 1.0 and 0.8 worms/sq.ft. (Florona stargrass) 15 DAT. Twenty three and 28 DAT Tracer and Dimilin both continued to control the worm population, which would provide growers adequate time to make hay or continue grazing under low worm populations. In fact, Dimilin continued to provide excellent worm control up to 43 DAT in both grasses (Table 1).

All the insecticides tested will kill army worms and grass loopers, however, most growers are interested in the length (days) of worm control and cost per acre. Current price/acre of insecticides tested, and number of day's the worm population remained less than 5 worms/sq.ft. are presented in Table 2. Generally, when the worm population is below 5 worms/sq.ft. it may not be economical to apply an insecticide, depending on the final use of the grass, grazing or horse hay.

Lannate (1 qt/A) and Sevin (1.5 qt/A), provided excellent worm control for 9 and 15 days for Ona and Florona stargrass respectively. Average cost for Lannate was \$14.07 and Sevin \$13.40/A. Tracer (1.5 oz/A) kept the worm population below 5 worms/sq.ft. for 28 days (Ona stargrass) and 43 days (Florona stargrass) at a chemical cost of \$9.41/A. Dimilin (2.0 oz/A) provided the longest worm control at 43 days for both grasses at a cost \$3.78/A. These data indicate for forage grass worm control Dimilin provided the longest (43 days) and most economical control with a cost of \$3.78/A.

To see the full article with tables go to <http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/in070108pm.html>



August 1 and 2, 2009 in Kissimmee, Florida

Increased consumer demand for local products such as organic, heirloom, hydroponic, grass-fed beef, pastured poultry and ethnic meats and vegetables are providing *new and increased opportunities for producers.*

The USDA defines small farms as those with gross annual sales of \$250,000 or less. Small farms contribute 37% of the value of all agricultural products sold in the U.S. In Florida, 93% of the 47,000 farms are defined by the USDA as *small farms and this number is growing.*

About the Conference

The conference will provide two full days of educational and networking activities geared to small farms. Educational events will consist of presentations, workshops, demonstrations, and discussion groups on a variety of topics. Topics will include:

- * Alternative Energy
- * Alternative Enterprises
- * Business and Marketing
- * Horticulture
- * Livestock including live animal exhibits

- * Organic & Sustainable Farming
- * Policy and Regulations

Networking opportunities will range from visiting with exhibitors with new products and technologies to refreshment breaks and lunches featuring product from Florida farms.

If you are affiliated with, interested in, or just want to learn more about diversified farming enterprises and community-based food systems in Florida, you will want to participate in this conference.

Who Should Attend

- Small Family Farms
- Transitional Farmers
- Beginning farmers
- Allied-industry representatives
- Educators and researchers
- Institutional members
- Agricultural associations
- Policy-makers
- Foundations
- Anyone interested in strengthening the small farm community in Florida

Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost Share Program

The Florida Division of Forestry will be re-offering the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Cost-Share Program for non-industrial private forest landowners in 2009. Applications will be accepted during a sign-up period running July 1 – Aug 12.

Program information and application materials are available on the Florida DOF website (www.fl-dof.com, click on the SPB link under "Hot Topics").

The direct link is:

http://www.fldof.com/forest_management/fh_insects_spb_prevention_program.html.

Hardcopies of application materials are available at DOF County Forester offices. A department press release should be available soon at

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/>.

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Farm Service Agency County Committee Nominations

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that farmer and rancher candidate nominations will begin on June 15, 2009, for local Farm Service Agency county committees. The nomination period continues through Aug. 3, 2009, with elections taking place this fall.

"County committees are an important link between the farm community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and give landowners, farmers and ranchers a better chance of having their opinions and ideas heard," said Vilsack. "In recent years, we have seen a trend of increased nominations of minority and women producers and I hope that will continue."

Producers may nominate themselves or others, and organizations representing minorities and women may also nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign the nomination form, FSA-669A. The form and other valuable information about FSA county committee elections are available online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections>. Nomination forms for the 2009 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 3, 2009.

FSA county committee members make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs and other important agricultural issues. Members serve three-year terms. Nationwide, there are about 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. Committees consist of three to 11 members who are elected by eligible producers.

Hope you all have a great summer!



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