



Volume 4, Issue 4

October - December 2009

## Up Coming Events

### October

2-Mo Brangus, Express Bull Sale Arcadia Stockyard 1:00p.m.

9- Hay Field Day 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Must RSVP to attend. 352-343-4101.

20-22- Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition, Moultrie, Georgia. <http://sunbeltexpo.com/>

22- Lemon & Kempfer Multi-breed Bull Sale, Kissimmee 1p.m.

29- Cattle Producer Seminar 6:00 p.m. Lake County Extension Office Must RSVP to attend. 352-343-4101.

### November

17- Property Tax Agricultural Adjustments 6:00 p.m. Lake County Extension Office. 352-343-4101.

### December

Take pasture soil samples so that you are ready to fertilize in the spring.

## 2009 Cool Season Forage Recommendations

**Rye** – Rye is the small grain most widely used for winter grazing. Rye is more cold tolerant than oats and generally produces more forage than either oats or wheat. If rye is planted very early in the season, it is often hurt by various seedling diseases. It is often best to wait until cool weather prevails. Normally rye developed from northern states will produce little forage in late fall or early winter and will usually

be severely damaged by leaf rust; therefore, plant only varieties recommended for the Southeastern U. S.

**Recommended varieties:** FL 401 (for early grazing or for use in blends), AGS 104, Wrens 96, Wrens Abruzzi, Bates, Oklon, Wintergrazer 70, and Early Graze.

**Oat** – Oat is very palatable, but is susceptible to freeze injury. Oat may be planted and grazed earlier than rye. Horizon 474, Horizon 270, and Horizon 201 are relatively new varieties that have improved crown rust resistance, winter hardiness, and good grain and forage production. In some years, some varieties, like NK-Coker 227, may be injured by Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (BYDV).

**Recommended varieties:** Horizon 270, Horizon 201, Horizon 321, Horizon 474, SS76-40, RAM LA99016, and TAMO 406.

## Lake County Hay Field Day-October 9, 2009

10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.



- Producing Quality Hay & Haylage
- New Herbicide's & Weed Control
- Lunch by Jack's BBQ
- New Equipment Field Demonstration (Haylage Wrapper)

Sponsored by Fields Equipment and Mid State New Holland

Call to register! 352-343-4101 ask for Maggie Jarrell or Martha Thomas

Field Location CR 48 south west of Okahumpka



## Feeding Livestock This Winter

I hope you have started planning your winter feeding plan for this winter. Having a plan for winter feeding will save money on buying nutrients. Trying to find hay at the last minute can be much more costly than buying plenty of hay in the fall. Make sure this is

quality hay that has been fertilized. You can ask the producer for a nutrient analysis of hay you are purchasing.

Why buy a bale for \$50 with 8% protein when you can spend \$50 on a bale with 12% protein?

### **Remember the 7 P's Prior, Proper, Preparation, Prevents, Poor, Production and Performance.**

A cow's condition is a major factor in whether she will rebreed after calving. When buying feed consider all options available and price them depending on the nutrients they provide. This is measured in Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) and/or Crude Protein (CP).

- Hay
- Molasses
- Citrus pulp
- Grain by products

After you have a plan for feeding you need to consider sorting cows in relation to their Body Condition Score (BCS) <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AN001> and nutritional needs.

- Younger Cattle should be sorted into separate pasture so that they can receive a higher plane of nutrition.
- Open cattle that are not going to calve during the winter months need to be put in a separate pasture from cows that are calving and milking.

If a cow is below a body condition score of five (5) it will increase the days that it takes for her to return to estrus. It will also increase services per conception and reduce overall pregnancy rates. There will also be decreased calf performance.

### **Common External Parasites Found on Livestock**



In livestock operations external parasite control is a major concern since parasites increase stress, decrease weight gain, and carry disease. There are several different ways to control these pests

and multiple strategies may need to be implemented.

It is a good practice to rotate the pesticide that is being used so that parasites do not become resistant. Producers should also make sure they are dosing animals properly so that parasites are killed and not just weakened allowing them to become resistant.

Ticks and Lice are parasites that are difficult to spot unless you can restrain cattle. Ticks are usually found on the head in the ears and lice are found in the switch of the tail.

**Horn Flies:** Are about half the size of house flies and are dark gray. They are blood-sucking flies that stay on the shoulders and backs of cattle almost continuously. During extremely hot weather or when it rains, they may move to the protected underside of the animal. When disturbed, horn flies will fly up in a swarm but they will return to the animals almost immediately. A horn fly leaves the back of a cow or calf only to lay eggs in fresh manure. They suck blood from the host 24 hours a day. Individual flies pierce the skin with their short, tube-like mouth parts 20 to 30 times per day to ingest a small amount of blood. Their feeding activity is painful and annoys the animals, as well as causing some blood loss.

**Face Flies:** Closely resemble house flies. Face flies cluster on the faces of cattle and feed on secretions from the mucus membranes of the eyes, nose, and lips. Face flies do not suck blood. They do irritate the surface of the eyeball and carry and spread bacteria and viruses that contribute to pinkeye problems. They spend only a small portion of their life on cattle which makes them more difficult to control than horn flies.

**Stable flies:** Are sometimes called biting house flies. They look very much like house flies. They feed primarily on legs and lower abdomen of cattle. The mouth parts penetrate the skin and allow them to engorge on blood two to three times a day depending on the weather. Once full they move to a resting place, usually in the shade, to digest the blood meal. The blood loss and pain associated with the bite of stable flies' results in substantial economic loss.

**Ticks:** Cause blood loss, discomfort, and spread diseases like anaplasmosis. Tick control is extremely difficult in areas with high tick populations. High concentrations of ticks usually occur in brushy pastures and woodlands so habitat management is an important part of tick control. Control on cattle through persistent use of approved pesticides is achieved by spraying, dipping, ear tags,

pour-ons, dust, and backrubs. A good residual insecticide is necessary to prevent infestation.

**Lice:** Cause skin irritation and itching. Both biting and sucking lice infest cattle. Infested cattle can experience reduced appetite and appear unthrifty. Lice reside entirely on the host cow. Lice are present on cattle year around but increase in numbers in winter. In spring most parasites are lost with the winter hair coat. Lice control is most important in the fall and early winter when the lice populations increase. Treat with approved products. Treatment needs to be repeated in three weeks to kill hatching lice since most insecticides do not successfully kill eggs. Sprays and pour-ons are common methods to treat cattle lice.

There are several methods for controlling these pests and more then one may need to be implemented.

**Sprays:** Prepare only enough solution to adequately spray the animals. Pesticides may undergo chemical changes after being mixed with water, creating potential hazards to the applicator and animals. Emulsifiable concentrate or soluble formulations are better than wettable powders for use in small sprays because less agitation is required to maintain a uniform mixture.

When spraying to control ticks, lice and mites, use enough water to cover the animal thoroughly. Wet animals to the skin when spraying systemic pesticides for cattle grub control. Sprayers can be moved easily from pasture to pasture; however, transporting water may be a problem because up to 1 gallon of spray per animal is often required for effective parasite control. Sprayers should have a high-volume piston pump with a suitable agitator when applying sprays made from wettable powders. Apply sprays at a pressure of 250 to 350 pounds per square inch.

**Pour-ons:** Pesticides are formulated for direct application to the backlines of animals. They are used principally for cattle grub and lice control. Recommended materials may be purchased in ready-to-use or water-miscible formulations. The chemical is absorbed through the skin and circulates through the animal's system. Backline treatments with pour-on material also provide horn fly control for a short period of time.

**Spot-on:** Pesticides can be easily applied for cattle grub and louse control. This method involves the application of a small amount of pesticide with specially designed applicators in a single spot on the backlines of animals.

**Dusts:** Can be applied to animals by hand shakers or in self-treatment dust bags. Their chief value is for horn fly and lice control on large animals and for lice and mite control on poultry.

**Feed and Mineral Pesticide Additives:** Certain pesticides may be administered as feed or mineral additives. These control certain fly species whose maggot stages occur in animal manure.

**Insecticide Impregnated Ear Tags:** Are plastic devices that contain an insecticide for ear tick and horn fly control. They control ear ticks for 4 to 5 months and horn flies for 2 1/2 to 5 months (in areas where flies are not resistant to pyrethroids). Make sure to remove tags when they are no longer effective.

As you can see there are a variety of treatment options available and depending on your operation some will work better for you than others. Research prices looking at the percentage of active ingredient when comparing similar products and choose the method that will work for your livestock.

If you would like to have hay tested for quality give me a call.  
Hope you all have a great fall/winter!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Thomas".

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