

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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The Foundation for The Gator Nation
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<http://madison.ifas.ufl.edu>

A note from your Agent . . .

It is that time a year again for the Annual North Florida Livestock Show and Sale. This year they will be celebrating their Fifty-Fifth year and have dedicated this year's show to Mr. Paul Ragans. 4-H and FFA students have worked all year to prepare their steer/swine for this show, so lets show them a little support and come watch the steer/swine show. If you are interested in purchasing one of the steer/swine you can come to the Buyers Supper on Thursday, February 19th. The Madison County Extension Office has a few programs available for your convenience or call if you have any questions.

Please note that all programs listed inside this newsletter as well as the newsletter are posted online under the Agriculture page.

Thank you,

Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

February 2009:

Wednesday 4th - Crop Management School

February 16th—19th - Madison County Livestock Show & Sale

Tuesday 17th - Corn Growers Meeting

March 2009:

Thursday 5th - Alternative Fertilizer Program

Friday 6th - Cut Flower & Foliage Production for Direct Market Sales Program

March 16th—18th - Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business Course

February 2009

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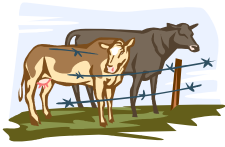
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For meetings sponsored by Madison County Extension Office: Individuals with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please call 850-973-4138 at least five (5) working days before the meeting, so proper consideration can be given the request.

Products or plant varieties mentioned in this newsletter are for informational purposes only, and should not be construed as an endorsement, or guarantee, or to exclude similarly labeled, or appropriate products, or adapted plant varieties.

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Beef Management Tips



- ⤴ Top dress winter forages, if needed.
- ⤴ Continue monitoring mineral feeders.
- ⤴ Make sure bulls are in good condition for breeding.
- ⤴ Make sure lactating cows are receiving an adequate level of energy.
- ⤴ Check cows frequently for calving difficulties.
- ⤴ Tag calves at birth. Record birth dates, tag numbers and cow ID.

Lawn and Garden Tips

Some cool season plants to plant now that will display colors in the garden include the following:

- ✓ Baby's Breath
- ✓ Calendulas
- ✓ Carnations
- ✓ Dianthus
- ✓ Dusty Miller
- ✓ Pansies
- ✓ Petunias
- ✓ Snapdragons

Some bulbs to plant now include (Provide adequate water to establish and protect from cold with mulch):

- ✓ Dahlias
- ✓ Crinum
- ✓ Agapanthus

Azaleas are in full bloom this

month, therefore now is a good time to select and plant.

You can plant the following vegetables from seed, indoors or provide protection outdoors:

- ✓ Cucumbers
- ✓ Peppers
- ✓ Tomatoes

For your vegetable garden it is recommended that you plant the following:

- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Broccoli
- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Turnips
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Cauliflower
- ✓ Bunching Onions

- ✓ English Peas
- ✓ Potatoes
- ✓ Radishes

Roses should be pruned this month to remove damaged canes and improve the overall form. Fertilize and apply a fresh layer of mulch.

Prune dormant grapes this month.

Fertilize shrubs, water and apply a fresh layer of mulch.

February is the month to apply a pre-emergent herbicide to control weeds in the lawn.

Timing is important for good control.



Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business

Hydroponic Controlled Growing Systems for Locally Grown Products "The Hands-On Approach to Learning"

March 16-18, 2009

North Florida Research and Education Center—Suwannee Valley Farm

Classroom & Greenhouse Sessions

March 16, 2009 - 9:00am to 6:00pm
March 17, 2009 - 8:00am to 6:00pm

Optional Growers Tour

March 18, 2009 - 7:30am to Noon

Who Should Attend:

Prospective or new growers or Extension Agents interested in

protected culture, hydroponics, and products for local markets.

Costs:

Classroom and Greenhouse Sessions - \$295 per person.
Optional Grower Tour - \$50 per person. Space is limited, first come, first serve basis.

What Attendees Will Receive:

This short course is designed to teach attendees the basic skills needed to start a hydroponic based business including: planning, marketing, and production techniques. Much of the two day program will be conducted in the

greenhouses so attendees will "learn by doing". Attendees will receive a notebook for the class and will learn where to find information on the web. Lunch and dinner will be provided on March 16 and lunch on March 17. Those interested in attending a half day tour to area growers on Day 3 will be able to attend for an additional fee.

For more information contact Wanda Laughlin at 386-362-1725 ext 104 or Bob Hochmuth at ext 103. To register visit <http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu> for a brochure to register.

Madison County Livestock Show & Sale

This year's North Florida Livestock Show & Sale will start on Monday, February 16th through Thursday, February 19th. Here is the following program schedule:

Monday, February 16th

8:00AM-1:00PM Receive swine entries only

1:00PM-5:00PM Receive steer entries only

6:00 P.M.

Youth Swine Show

Show Superintendent: Chad Lyons

Ringmaster: Chris Vann

Placing Awards: Clyde Alexander

Tuesday, February 17th

9:00 A.M. Livestock Judging Contest

7:00 P.M. Awards

Gain-in-Weight (Browning & Sons)

Best Recordbook Contest

(Madison Mini Storage/Performance Imports)

Pee Wee Scramble

Pig Scramble/Calf Scramble

9:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 18th

Screening Steers

Youth Cattle Show

Show Superintendent: Jack McLeod, North Florida Livestock Association

Ringmaster: Dan Fenneman, Madison County Extension

Placing Awards: Wayne Vickers, Chairman of Madison County Commission

Thursday, February 19th

5:30 P.M.

6:45 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

Buyers Supper, Madison County Extension Office

Herdsmen Awards

Sale

Sale Manager: Ab Townsend

Clerks: Mrs. Barbara Greiner & Friends

Pee Wee/Pig/Calf Scramble Forms are available online or at the Madison County Extension. Forms along with a copy of child's Insurance is DUE by Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at Noon.

Alternative Fertilizer Program

The alternative Fertilizer Program will be held on March 5th at the Suwannee County Extension Office. Please continue to watch for more information about the program online at <http://madison.ifas.ufl.edu> upcoming events. You can also contact either the Suwannee County Office at 386-362-2771 or the Madison County Office at 850-973-4138.



Corn Growers Meeting

A Corn Growers Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17th at 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the North Florida Research Education Center in Suwannee County. Some topics to be included are:

- ◆ Walking Tour, Discussion of Rye, Legume Cover Crop Plots
- ◆ 2009 Corn Production and Fertilizer, Irrigation Saving Strategies
- ◆ Weed Control, Peanut Herbicide Carryover Issues, Weed Resistance Management
- ◆ Results of Fertilizer and Irrigation Tools Project
- ◆ Tissue Sampling for Nitrogen Use Efficiency
- ◆ 2009 Corn Budgets

For more information about registration and flyers contact the Madison County Extension Office or visit us online.

Cut Flower & Foliage Production for Direct Market Sales Program

On Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 8:30AM to 3:00PM at the North Florida Research and Education Center—Suwannee Valley will be holding a Program about Flower and Foliage Production. Registration is required and a fee of \$20 per person. This will include lunch, refreshments and program materials. **Registration Deadline is March 6, 2009 at 5:00PM.** Contact Karen Hancock at khancock@ufl.edu or call 386-362-1725 for more information.

Program Includes:

- What to Grow and What Not to Grow
 - ◇ Flowers
 - ◇ Foliages
 - ◇ Stems, etc.
- How to Grow
 - ◇ Propagation Material and Methods

- ◇ Site Selection and Preparation
- ◇ Spacing
- ◇ Irrigation Management
- ◇ Weed and Pest Control
- ◇ Pruning & Staking
- Harvesting and Processing
 - ◇ When
 - ◇ Methods
 - ◇ Conditioning
 - ◇ Sweating
 - ◇ Equipment
- Storage, Packaging, Marketing, and Shipping
 - ◇ Wet vs Dry
 - ◇ Temperatures
 - ◇ Grades and Bunch Counts
 - ◇ Uses and Users

