

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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A note from your Agent . . .

I hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday season. As winter continues, start developing your farming and gardening plan for the growing season.

Arbor Day is celebrated on Friday, January 16th, this is where Floridians plant trees within the local community. I encourage all to take part in Arbor Day and plant a tree within your local community.

A new event is happening for Madison County farmers thanks to the local Rotary Club. Farmers and Friends will be held on the fifth Saturday in January, May, August and October. Information regarding these events will be included in these newsletters.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the Madison County Extension Office at 973-4138 .

January 2009

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Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

January 2009

Thursday 1st - New Year's Day - OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday 13th - Growing Organic Vegetables - Part 1

Thursday 15th - Growing Organic Vegetables - Part 2

Monday 19th - Martin Luther King Day - OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday 31st - Fifth Saturday Farmers & Friends Festivals

February 2009:

Wednesday 4th - Crop Management School

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

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

- ⤴ Apply lime for summer crops.
- ⤴ Control weeds in cool season pastures.
- ⤴ Begin grazing winter clover pastures when approximately 6 (six) inches high. Rye should be 12-18 inches high. Do not graze winter annuals closer than 4 inches. Over grazing can reduce winter production.
- ⤴ Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
- ⤴ Continue monitoring mineral feeders.
- ⤴ 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:

- ✓ Carnation
- ✓ Pansy
- ✓ Petunias
- ✓ Shasta Daisy
- ✓ Snapdragons
- ✓ Camellias

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

- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Broccoli

- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Turnips
- ✓ Lettuce

Now is the time to plant deciduous fruit trees. To control scale on citrus, shrubs, camellias and deciduous fruit trees, apply horticultural oil while plants are dormant.

Prune non-spring flowering shrubs and trees this month to improve form.

While crepe myrtles do not require pruning, removing seed pods, crossing branches and small twiggy growth improves the appearance and form of the plant.



Growing Organic Vegetables - 2 Part Series

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Danielle Treadwell, UF Organic and Sustainable Vegetable Production Specialist

TOPICS:

Crop Rotation, Cover Crops, Building a Healthy Soil, Sources of Fertilizers and Organic Production.



Thursday, January 14, 2009

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bob Hochmuth, UF Regional Vegetable Extension Agent

Carolyn Saft, UF Multi-County Horticulture Extension Agent

Linda Landrum, UF Regional Marketing Extension Agent

TOPICS:

Pest Management, Irrigation 101, How to Sell Your Products at Local Farmers Markets

Pre-Register by January 8th - Cost \$5 (materials fee). Contact Pam Burke at 386-362-2771 or peburke@ufl.edu for more information Located at the UF/IFAS Suwannee County Extension Office, 1302 11th Street SW, Live Oak, Florida

Farmers & Friends Festivals!

Dear Friends,

The Madison Rotary Club, in conjunction with local civic, business, and community leaders, is pleased to announce the 2009 Fifth Saturday Farmers & Friends Festivals! Four times next year, North Range Avenue will be lined with booths and displays heralding our rich agricultural heritage and quality local products. We personally invite you to be a sponsor of these festive events!

In addition to the farmers market, agricultural displays, food and nursery products, and arts and craft vendors, each Fifth Saturday Festival will feature a different theme and coordinated local events:

January 31, 2009 - Fishing & Hunting Show
8:00AM - 3:00PM — Special outdoor

fishing and hunting show, food vendors, live entertainment, activities for the kids. (There is still booth space available)

May 30, 2009 - Gospel & Bluegrass Music Festival

August 29, 2009 - Classic & Antique Car Show

October 31, 2009 - Bicycle Tourism - Road Trip

These unique and engaging events are sure to draw large crowds and establish beautiful and historic Madison as a place to visit, shop, work and live. The events will be well publicized larger markets such as Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Southeast Georgia. For more information please contact the Madison Rotary Club at 850-973-2788.

Brian O'Connell, President-Elect, Madison Rotary Club

Crop Management School - Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Madison, Jefferson, Lafayette, Suwannee, Hamilton, Brooks and Thomas Counties are teaming up to provide a Crop Management Course that will be offering CEU's.

The following will be offered:

- ✧ Best management practices
- ✧ Nitrogen Limits
- ✧ Water use issues
- ✧ Conservation tillage
- ✧ Record keeping
- ✧ GPS systems
- ✧ Conservation tillage equipment

- ✧ Variable rate fertilizer applicator
- ✧ Field Demonstration
- ✧ Equipment Demonstrations

Program and registration starts at 8:00 AM and ends with field and equipment demonstrations at 3:30 PM.

Please RSVP by January 30, 2009 by calling the Madison County Extension Office at 850-973-4138.

