

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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A note from your Agent . . .

It's that time of year again to get out and plant a garden. Whether you want to plant a vegetable garden or plant new flowers in your flower garden, warmer weather is around the corner. Warmer crops are best to be planted after March 15th while you are finishing up your cooler crops. Come by the office to pick of a soil sample kit to test your PH balance and see what is needed for your vegetable garden. If you have any questions or concerns regarding what to plant and when to plant please give me a call.

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

March 2009:

Wednesday 3rd - Manage for Multiple Resources

Thursday 5th - Farm Bill 2008 Meeting

Thursday 5th - Alternative Fertilizer Program

Thursday 5th - Annual Tri-County Peanut Meeting

Saturday 7th - Wildlife Food Plot Field Day

Tuesday 10th - Cut Flower & Foliage Production for Direct Market Sales Program

Saturday 14th - Goat Seminar

Monday 16th—Wednesday 18th - Starting a Successful Hydroponic Business Course

Tuesday 17th - Silvicultural Best Management Practices Workshop

Tuesday 31st - Food Safety Program

April 4th - Perennial Peanut Association Meeting

March 2009

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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

- ⤴ Prepare land for summer crops
- ⤴ Worm cows if needed
- ⤴ Continue monitoring mineral feeders
- ⤴ Begin fly control and external

parasite control program by April 1st

- ⤴ Observe bulls for condition and success, rotate and rest if needed
- ⤴ Make sure calves are healthy

and making good weight gains

- ⤴ Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves



Lawn and Garden Tips

Some cool season vegetables to plant early in the month include the following:

- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Collards
- ✓ Lettuces
- ✓ Mustards
- ✓ Turnips
- ✓ Radishes
- ✓ Irish Potatoes
- ✓ English Peas

- ✓ Cantaloupes
- ✓ Sweet Corn
- ✓ Cucumbers
- ✓ Eggplant
- ✓ Okra
- ✓ Peas
- ✓ Squash
- ✓ Tomatoes
- ✓ Watermelon

- ✓ Ornamental Shrubs

Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs after blooming but before new buds set.

Plant spring and summer flowering bulbs.

Replace declining winter annuals with varieties that provide color.

Some warm season vegetables to plant late in the month include the following:

- ✓ Beans

It is recommended that you fertilize the following (choose a fertilizer based on each plant's needs):

- ✓ Pecan Trees
- ✓ Palms
- ✓ Azaleas
- ✓ Camellias



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

Speakers Include:

- Linda Landrum, Regional Specialized Agent-Marketing, North Florida Research & Education Center—Suwannee Valley
- Bob Stamps, Specialist, Mid-Florida Research & Educational Center—Apopka
- Bob Hochmuth, Multi County Extension Agent, North Florida Research & Educational Center—Suwannee Valley



Goat Seminar



On Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 9:00AM to 4:00PM a Goat Seminar will be held at the Hamilton County Extension Office.

Topics to be covered are:

- Production
- Financial and Legal Risks for Small Ruminant Producers
- Herd Health Management
- Nutrition & Pasture Management
- Reproduction & Breeding
- Marketing

Program is hosted by:

Florida A&M University
Southeastern Small Farmer's Network
University of Florida Extension

For more information contact:

Allen Tyree, University of Florida Extension
Agent at 386-792-1276, Ms. Norma Tillman at
386-303-1361 or Quondra Browning, FAMU at
850-875-8555



Silvicultural Best Management Practices

The Florida Division of Forestry will sponsor a Silvicultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) workshop in Madison, Florida, on March 17, 2009. A wide array of topics will be discussed, all pertaining to the application of BMPs in various forest management practices. Special attention will be devoted to recent changes/expansions in addressing water resource features (sinkholes, small lakes, and canals) and activities in wetlands, including cypress harvesting. Landowners, foresters, loggers, and others interested in land use who have not attended a similar workshop since 2007 will find significant new material in this presentation.

The workshop will take place in the conference room of

the UF-IFAS, Madison County Extension Office.

Registration will begin at 8:45 AM. The workshop will begin at 9:00 AM and will last until approximately 12:00 PM.

Please R.S.V.P. by noon Friday, March 13, 2009. To R.S.V.P., or more information, contact Jim Fleming, Madison County Forester, Florida Division of Forestry at 973-5115.



Silviculture

Developing a Food Safety Program for Suwannee Valley Vegetable Growers

On Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 8:30AM to 4:30PM located at the North Florida Research & Educational Center-Suwannee Valley Farm Conference Room will be a Food Safety Program.

There is a \$10 registration fee payable at the door which includes lunch. To register call Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 x101.

Program will include the following:

- 8:30 **Registration**
- 9:00 **Welcome, Introduction and Setting the Stage**
How Do I Know What I Need? (Bob Hochmuth, NFREC)
- 9:30 **Microbiology for Growers: Understanding Organisms of Concern**-brief presentation of main organisms, how they grow, spread, etc. (Keith Schneider, Food & Human Nutrition)
- 10:45 **An Overview of GAPs Issues**-reviewing key farm, field, packing house and transportation practices (Keith Schneider, Food & Human Nutrition)
- 11:30 **Worker Health & Hygiene**-addressing the need for worker training, including common stumbling blocks, resources, etc. (Michelle Danyluk, Citrus REC)
- 12:15 **Lunch**

- 1:15 **The Importance of Record Keeping**-making record keeping a manageable part of the Your Food Safety Plan (Renee Goodrich Schneider, Food & Human Nutrition)
- 1:45 **Post Harvest Handling & Sanitation**-effectively communicating your food safety program and advocating for your farm (Steve Sargent, Horticultural Sciences)
- 2:45 **Audit Perspectives: Lack of a Standardized Audit**-preparing for an audit/inspection without losing your mind (Renee Goodrich Schneider, Food & Human Nutrition)
- 3:15 **Local Grower Experiences, Surviving the Audit Process**
- 3:45 **Educational Materials and Resources**-discussing the resources that make things easier and more effective (Keith Schneider-Food & Human Nutrition)
- 4:15 **How Can UF/IFAS Extension Help You in the Next Step?**-open forum for questions, wrap-up (Bob Hochmuth, NFREC)
- 4:30 **Adjourn**