

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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A note from your Agent . . .

Warmer temperatures are here. Daytime temperatures should reach the 90's, while nighttime temperatures can still be cool. If you enjoy nature here are some animal behaviors to look for this month:

Birds

Painted Buntings nest through summer in Northeast Florida
Bald Eagles begin to migrate South
Breeding begins for many resident and summer song birds

Mammals

Gray bats congregate at maternity caves now through mid-July

Reptiles

Alligators begin to court and make loud resounding 'bellows'
Loggerhead Sea Turtles begin nesting on summer nights
Soft-Shell and Alligator Snapping Turtles complete egg laying

Fish

Bluegill are bedding at the full moon
Redbreast Sunfish and Spotted Sunfish begin spawning in rivers
Pompano are running in the surf in North Florida

Plants

American Lotus Bloom at Paynes Prairies State Preserve

Sincerely,

Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

May 2009:

Tuesday 5th - Embracing Change-Adopting Alternative Enterprises

Friday 8th - Florida/Georgia Game Management Update Series

Thursday 14th - Fruit & Nut Twilight Field Day

Thursday 14th - Rotational Grazing Field Day

Saturday 16th - Goat Program

Tuesday 19th - Cut Flower Production on Small Farms

June 2009:

Tuesday 23rd - Palm Production Seminar

Tuesday 30th - Hay Field Day

May 2009

Inside This Issue:

Beef Management Tips

Lawn and Garden Tips

Adopting Alternative Enterprises

Fruit and Nut Twilight Field Day

Rotational Grazing Field Day

Spring Goat Production Conference

Cut Flower Production on Small Farms

Registration Forms Inside This Issue:

2009 FL-GA Game Management Update Series

Fruit and Nut Twilight Field Day

Spring Goat Production Conference

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

- ⤴ Check mineral feeders
- ⤴ Control flies
- ⤴ Check dust bags
- ⤴ Fertilize warm season pastures according to soil test recommendations, if not done previously
- ⤴ Control pasture weeds by mowing or with chemical control
- ⤴ Plant warm season perennial pastures
- ⤴ Harvest hay from cool season crops
- ⤴ Check for spittlebugs and treat if necessary
- ⤴ Apply spot-on agents for grub and louse control
- ⤴ Vaccinate and implant with growth stimulant any later calves
- ⤴ Re-implant calves with growth stimulant at 90-120 days, when you have herd penned



Lawn and Garden Tips

Begin watching for Chinch Bug damage in St. Augustine Lawns. The damage usually occurs in sunny locations. The grass dies in patches and turns straw brown. Damaged areas do not recover and must be plugged or sodded. Treat damaged areas with an approved insecticide or ask a pest control company to treat them. Mole crickets are the No. 1 lawn pest problem in North Florida. Scout for these pests and apply insecticides as needed. Always follow the instructions

on the label.

Vegetables to plant this month:

- Lima Beans
- Okra
- Eggplant
- Southern Peas
- Sweet Potatoes

Herbs that love the heat include:

- Basil
- Mexican Tarragon
- Rosemary

Annuals that can take the summer heat include:

- Salvias
- Torenia
- Wax Begonias
- Ornamental Peppers

Plant early, mid and late blooming Daylilies to have months of color from these low maintenance plants.



Embracing Change - Adopting Alternative Enterprises - Tuesday, May 5, 2009

The Angeles Farm LLLC, owned by Ramon & Ofelia Angeles, had been a poultry operation for many years until 2008, when they retired out of the business. After considering various alternative enterprises, the farm is now focused on fresh vegetables produced in "greenhouses" that were once the poultry houses, and along with some outdoor production. All of this production, totaling about one acre, is in soilless culture with local composted pine bark as the media. Both 3-gallon plastic nursery pots and homemade

open troughs from recycled poultry house wood are being used to hold the media. Primary crops include: cherry tomato, bell pepper, and eggplant with smaller trial areas of cucumber and lettuce.

Agenda

- 5:00 PM—Registration
- 5:30 PM—Educational Farm Tour
- 7:30 PM Seed Sources & Seed Swap
- 7:30 BBQ Cookout and Social Hour
- All Small Farmers who are interested

in learning about this topic are invited to attend. There is a \$5/person charge to cover the BBQ meal and refreshments. RSVP to Union County Extension Office (386-496-2321) by 4:30PM Friday.

Sponsored by Florida Small Farms Alternative Enterprises, University of Florida IFAS Extension.

Location: Angeles Farm, LLC/8151 SW 44th Avenue/Providence/Lake Butler/Florida

Fruit and Nut Twilight Field Day - Thursday, May 14, 2009

North Florida Research & Educational Center—Suwannee Valley

Topics to be Covered:

Variety Selections for North Florida Production Practices
Pest Management
Harvest & Postharvest Handling
Market Potential
Propagation

Agenda:

4:00PM - Registration

4:30 to 5:10PM-Session 1 (Choose One)

- ◆ Persimmon
- ◆ Blackberry
- ◆ Propagation
- ◆ Chestnut

5:15 to 6:00PM-Session 2 (Choose One)

- ◆ Persimmon
- ◆ Blackberry
- ◆ Propagation
- ◆ Chestnut

6:00 to 7:00PM—Dinner

7:00 to 7:40PM-Session 3 (Choose One)

- ◆ Stone Fruit
- ◆ Muscadine Grapes
- ◆ Blueberry
- ◆ Cold Hardy Citrus

7:45 to 8:30PM-Session 4 (Choose One)

- ◆ Stone Fruit
- ◆ Muscadine Grapes
- ◆ Blueberry
- ◆ Cold Hardy Citrus

Registration:

The registration fee is \$20 if paid by May 1st, and \$25 if paid after May 1st. Deadline to register is May 8 at 5PM. Price includes dinner and materials. For more information call Karen Hancock at (386) 362-1725 ext 101.

Rotational Grazing Field Day - Thursday, May 14, 2009

On May 14th from 10:00AM to 2:30PM at Southpoint Dairy, West of Chiefland Florida.

Consider Rotational Grazing as a solution to:

- Optimize Forage Production
- Minimize Labor
- Eliminate Expensive Cropping Equipment

Presenters:

Introduction - Dr. Mary Sowerby, UF Dairy Extension

Grazing Dairies vs. Conventional

Dairies - Ron St. John, Owner, Southpoint Dairy

Building Parlors and Pastures - Pete Hetherington, Manager, Southpoint Dairy

Forage Options for Grazing Dairies - Dr. Yoana Newman, UF Forage Extension

Body Condition and Disease

Considerations of Grazing Cows - Dr. Jan Shearer, UF Dairy

Veterinary Extension

Panel of Graziers: Al Wehner, Quitman GA; Bubba Kurtz, Live Oak, FL; Norm Nickerson, Wauchula, FL; and Pete Hetherington, Chiefland, FL.

To pre-register contact Mary Sowerby at (386) 362-2771 by Monday, May 11th. Farm Credit is kindly helping sponsor lunch. There will be a \$10 registration fee for the field day at the farm.

Spring Goat Production Conference - Saturday, May 16, 2009

The Florida Meat Goat Association, Inc. presents the Spring Goat Production Conference in Live Oak, Florida on May 16th from 7:45AM to 5:00PM.

Who Should Attend?

Everyone who has an interest in goats, or other small ruminants, should attend, from beginners to experienced breeders of both meat and dairy breeds. If you are even considering starting a goat project, this conference will provide much valuable information. Producer, veterinarian, vet tech, 4-H leader, 4-H animal science project member, FFA member, FFA leader, and hobby goat owner will all benefit from this Goat Production Conference.

What's the Conference About?

The Florida Meat Goat Association Meat Goat Production Conference will present basic education for goat owners. It will have workshops on how to give castrate, trim hooves, and more. There will be speakers who will give pointers on how to make your goat

business more profitable, make your pastures better and safer, how to fill out EQUIP paperwork to get assistance in fencing your perimeter, tips on marketing your goats, and much more.

Vendor tables are available for a fee of \$15, which includes lunch for one person. If you have a product or business you would like represented, contact Diane Strickland at 352-427-0979, or dsivrn@aol.com. Again, space is limited and vendors will be assigned on a first registered, first assigned basis.

Please note that you DO save money by joining FMGA, or renewing your membership, when you register for the conference. You will pick up your name tag and updated program at the pre-registration table. You'll save the hassle of standing in line during the morning of the conference by pre-registering, and this will give you more time to look at vendor's tables, have a cup of coffee and to visit. **If you plan to arrive after 8:30AM please pre-**

register! Registration tables will open at 7:45AM and will close at 8:30AM so those attending the registration tables can also enjoy the conference.

Topics Include:

- Health of the Pregnant Doe/Birthing Problems & Solutions
- USDA EQUIP Program
- Fencing, Shelters, & Rotational Grazing - How to Save On Your Feed Bill
- Spring Plants That Could Be Toxic To Goats
- FMGA
- Markets & Marketing - Pets or Meat - Where & Who are our customers
- Nutritional Management for Goats
- When are Eartags Needed?
- Summer Forages & Pastures
- Tanning Hides - Tanning Hides or Preparing Them for The Tannery
- Hands On: Drenching/strategic deworming, hoof trimming & hoof care, taking temperature, castrating.

Cut Flower Production On Small Farms - Tuesday, May 19, 2009

On May 19th at 6:30PM at the Clay County Extension Auditorium located at 2463 SR 16 West, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

The Cut Flower Production Workshop is an introductory educational workshop for those who wish to start a niche market enterprise or just would like to produce flowers for personal use. Topics to be covered: Flower Varieties, Irrigation, Marketing

& Post Harvest Handling, On Site Demonstration Plots, and Site Prep, and Fertilization.

Speakers: Linda Landrum, Regional Specilaized Agent, Marketing & Rural Development, North Florida REC-Suwannee Valley and David Nistler, Agriculture, Small Farm, Natural Resource Agent, Clay County Extension

Registration is \$10 to cover costs of demonstration plot, materials, and beverage break. Please contact the Clay County Extension Office at 904-284-6355 to reserve your spot as soon as possible - space is limited.