

# Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension  
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## A note from your Agent . . .

October is the first real fall month in Florida. Cool evenings will be a welcomed sign for most. The Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie is October 20-22 this year.

Sincerely,

## October 2009

### Beef Management:

- Plant cool season legumes
- Plant small grain pastures
- Check mineral feeders
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed
- Check for spittlebugs and grasshoppers and treat if needed
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition

### Inside This Issue:

- Wildlife Happenings
- Lawn and Garden Tips
- Showmanship & Clinic for ALL Youth
- Private Pesticide Applicator & Examination School
- Stewardship Property Tour
- Agricultural Enterprise Workshops
- Advanced Topics in Hydroponics

### Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

#### October 2009:

**Thursdays 1st** - Small Farms Workshops

**Saturday 10th** - North Florida Livestock Show & Sale Beef Weigh-In

**Saturday 10th** - Hands on Gardening Workshop

**Tuesday 20th—Thursday 22nd** - Sunbelt Ag Expo

**Saturday 24th** - Showmanship and Fitting Clinic

**Wednesday 28th** - Private Pesticide Applicator School

**Thursday 29th** - Forest Stewardship Tour

#### November 2009

**Thursday 5th** - Agricultural Enterprise Workshops

**Thursday 5th—Sunday 15th** - North Florida Fair

**Thursday 13th or Friday 14th** - Advanced Topics in Hydroponics (watch online for more information)

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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## Wildlife Happenings

### Birds

- ✓ Look for migrating Peregrine Falcons in natural areas, especially along the coast as they follow shorebird prey.
- ✓ Warbler migration peaks early this month.
- ✓ Sandhill Cranes that nested in more Northern latitudes begin to move down to join our resident birds.

- ✓ Ducks begin to arrive for winter.
- ✓ Grosbeaks, Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles, and Thrushes begin migrating south for the winter.

### Mammals

- ✓ Flying Squirrels will be moving into pecan groves as the nuts ripen.
- ✓ Black Bears feeding heavily in preparation for winter.

### Insects

- ✓ Monarch Butterfly migration nears its peak along Florida's Gulf coast. Many can be seen at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge.

### Fish

- ✓ Redfish and Trout move up creeks and rivers in North Florida.
- ✓ Largemouth Bass active in cooler waters.

## Lawn and Garden Tips

**Lawns** will start to lose their color as the weather starts getting cooler. Therefore if you want a greener lawn all winter long, try overseeding your lawn with annual ryegrass.

**Strawberries** do their best when planted during the months of September and October. One way to plant strawberries if you don't have room for a bed is to try planting them in some large containers round or rectangle. No matter how you plant them make sure you provide daily

water and sunshine until plants are established.

### Vegetables to plant this month:

- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Brussels Sprouts
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Onions

### Herbs to plant this month:

- ✓ Dill
- ✓ Fennel
- ✓ Oregano
- ✓ Sage

**Lilies** come in many different

varieties that can be planted during the month of October that would provide blooms for next spring and summer.

For best results you would need to add an organic matter to the planting hole.

**Fall flower beds** should begin to be prepped as well as be planted during the fall months. Bedding plants that do good around here are:

- ✓ Shasta Daisy
- ✓ Petunias
- ✓ Digitalis (Foxglove)

## Showmanship and Fitting Clinic For ALL Youth - October 24, 2009

This is a professional Clinic with Katherine Williams that is open to all youth in Suwannee County and Surrounding Counties.

On October 24, 2009 from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at the Suwannee County Fair Grounds in Live Oak, Florida. There is a \$10 fee for each exhibitor and lunch is included.

Bring your prospect heifers and steers for a day of learning

showmanship and grooming techniques starting at the basics with halter breaking, and ending with your calf in the show ring.

You will gather tips that will help you through the entire project making your show experience one you will never forget! This will be a fun filled day of hands on training for all age and experience levels.

There will be group discussions as

well as time for individual sessions in the show ring, so come prepared to work with your calves!

For more information contact Janet Sampson at 386-330-2302 or [suwanneecattlemen@gmail.com](mailto:suwanneecattlemen@gmail.com)

This event is sponsored by the Suwannee County Cattlemen Association.

## Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations - October 28, 2009

On October 28, 2009 at the North Florida Research and Education Center Suwannee Valley, CR136 and on December 9, 2009 at the Madison County Extension Office there will be a Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations Course.

CEU's will be received for those attending that currently have a Private Applicator License.

### Deadline to register for Meetings:

- ♦ For Suwannee County Extension call 386-362-2771 by Friday, October 16, 2009
- ♦ For Madison County Extension call 850-973-4138 by Monday, November 30, 2009.

### Tentative Agenda:

- 8:30am Registration (\$25per person)
- 8:45am Core Principles

- 11:15am Core Examination
- 12:15pm Lunch (on your own)
- 12:45pm Private Applicator Agriculture Pest Control
- 1:45pm Equipment Calibration (Field Demonstrations)
- 3:00pm Pesticide Arithmetic
- 4:15 Private Applicator Agriculture Pest Control Exam

## Stewardship Property Tour - Thursday, October 29, 2009

Herman Holley and Louise Divine bought their farm in January 1999 and say one of the first and smartest things they did was join the Forest Stewardship Program. Since then they have been working and expanding on the initial plan. The farm is 89 acres with several distinct ecosystems. There are little less than 20 acres of planted loblolly pine and about 18-20 years old. Much of the farm is in second growth hardwoods and “water

features”. Much to their surprise they are now making a living as organic farmers, growing a wide variety of seasonal produce for weekly markets and a small community supported agriculture (CSA) cooperative. They have planted a small citrus grove and are expanding their fig orchard and other fruit trees. For a preview of Turkey Hill Farm, see their feature at [www.localharvest.org/farms/M4181](http://www.localharvest.org/farms/M4181)

You can take a property tour on this

property on Thursday, October 29, 2009 starting at 9:00AM.

A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour. This program is free but you must preregister. Contact Genice Harris at the Leon County Extension Office at 850-606-5202 or [genicer@leoncountyfl.gov](mailto:genicer@leoncountyfl.gov) to register. **Attendance will be limited** so please register soon.

## Agricultural Enterprise Workshops - Thursday, November 5, 2009 @ 8:00AM

### THURSDAY, November 5, 2009

Registration: 8:00am—8:30am  
Session 1: 8:30am—9:45am  
Session 2: 9:50am—11:05am  
Session 3: 11:10am—12:25pm  
Lunch: 12:25pm—1:00pm  
Session 4: 1:00pm—2:15pm  
Adjourn: 2:15pm

### Workshop Choices Sessions 1 & 2

#### (A) Pesticide CORE CEU

- ◆ Pesticide Safety
- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment
- ◆ Labels

#### (B) Drip Irrigation

- ◆ Drip System Components
- ◆ Design Considerations
- ◆ Proper Scheduling and Maintenance

#### (C) Helpful Not Harmful – Beneficial Critters to Attract to Your Farm

- ◆ Birds that are Insectivores and Ways You Can Attract Them
- ◆ Bats Can Provide Insect Control
- ◆ Predatory Insects that Help Reduce Harmful Pest Populations

#### (D) Direct Market Regulations/Farmers

##### Market Displays

- ◆ Direct Market Regulations
- ◆ Creating an Eye Catching Market Display
- ◆ “Our Own Backyard” Program

### Workshop Choices Sessions 3 & 4

#### (E) Pasture Raised Pork

- ◆ Setting Up an Operation
- ◆ Breeds
- ◆ Overview of Regulations
- ◆ Capital and Resources Needed
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Meet a Farmer doing Pasture Raised Pork

#### (F) Winter Forages: Establishment and Varieties

- ◆ Forage Establishment
- ◆ Over seeded and Prepared Bed
- ◆ Recommended Varieties
- ◆ Winter Forages vs. Buying Hay
- ◆ Pest Control

#### (G) Diversifying Your Farm with Blueberries

- ◆ Blueberry Variety Selection
- ◆ Bed Preparation

#### ◆ Pruning and Propagation

#### ◆ Insect and Disease Management

#### (H) On Farm Solar Power and Wood

##### Gasification Application

- ◆ Solar Power Generation
- ◆ Energy Production from Vegetable Oil and Algae
- ◆ Design Concepts
- ◆ Government Rebate Incentive Opportunities
- ◆ Solar Panel Certification
- ◆ Cost/Benefit Analysis
- ◆ Wood Gasifier Power Generation Unit

**Cost: \$15 per person** includes

breaks and educational materials.

**Registration Deadline:** Oct 30, 2009

Lunch is sponsored by Farm Credit of North Florida.

For more information contact Karen Hancock at 386-362-1725 ext 101, [khancock@ufl.edu](mailto:khancock@ufl.edu) or Laurie Osborne at 386-362-1725 ext 102, [losborne@ufl.edu](mailto:losborne@ufl.edu)

**CEUs and CCAs Available**

## Advanced Topics In Hydroponics - Friday, Nov. 13th or Saturday Nov. 14, 2009

Small Farms Academy presents an Advanced Topics In Hydroponics course to be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center—Suwannee Valley. Growers may choose to attend **either** Friday, Nov. 13th **or** Saturday, Nov. 14th, 2009.

**Registration will close at 5:00pm**

**Monday, November 2, 2009.** Classes are limited to 30 participants per day. Cost of Registration is \$100 per attendee. The cost of registration

includes: morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch and program materials. Participants will receive: a notebook with supporting materials, hand lens, CD of common pests, and a Pocket ID Guide.

One Day - Two Intense Topics: Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Daily

More information regarding the topics and registration forms are available online.

### Daily Schedule:

Registration: 8:00am - 8:30am  
Topic Sessions: 8:30am - 10:00am  
Break: 10:00am - 10:30am  
Topic Session: 10:30am - 12:30pm  
Lunch: 12:30pm - 1:30pm  
Topic Sessions: 1:30pm - 3:00pm  
Break: 3:00pm - 3:30pm  
Topic Sessions: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

**<http://madison.ifas.ufl.edu/ag/classes>**