

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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A note from your Agent . . .

September brings the beginning of fall. We can start planting cool season vegetables now. September also marks the beginning of football season.

Sincerely,

September 2009

Wildlife Happenings:

- Get feeders ready for returning birds.
- Hawk migration begins at St. Joseph Peninsula in Gulf County.
- Bald Eagles return to nest sites and begin courtship.
- Deer breeding begins in South Florida Flatwoods.
- Start looking for manatees concentrated in rivers, bays, and near power plants.
- Atlantic Sturgeon begin fall migration from the Suwannee and Apalachicola Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico.
- Blue Crabs migrate from the shallow panhandle coast to deeper water for the winter.

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- Lawn and Garden Tips
- Wildlife Happenings
- Small Farms Workshops
- Multiple Enterprises Farm Tour
- Wildlife Field Day
- Stewardship Property Tour
- Horse Camping Workshop
- Raising Meat Goats Meeting

Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

September 2009:

Thursdays 10th, 17th, 24th and October 1st - Small Farms Workshops

Thursday 10th - Multiple Enterprises Farm Tour

Saturday 12th - Wildlife Field Day & Archery Tournament

Tuesday 15th - Stewardship Property Tour

Tuesday 15th - Madison County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Tuesday 22nd - Horse Camping Workshop

Thursday 24th - Madison County Cattleman's Meeting

Saturday 26th - Raising Meat Goats Meeting

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

- ✓ Plan where winter grazing will be over-seeded into pastures. Graze these areas close or clip prior to planting.
- ✓ Quality of Bermuda grass and Bahia declines rapidly from now to frost. Take stock of your hay supply so additional cuttings or purchases can be made. Send samples in for analysis.
- ✓ Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grassloopers; treat if necessary.
- ✓ Check dust bags.
- ✓ Wean calves and cull heard if not already done. Remove open, unsound, or poor producing cows.
- ✓ September or October is a good time to deworm the cow herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- ✓ Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
- ✓ Review winter feed supply and feeding plan so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.
- ✓ Check mineral feeders.

Lawn and Garden Tips

- Vegetables to plant this month include:
- ☼ Snap Beans
 - ☼ Pole Beans
 - ☼ Beets
 - ☼ Broccoli
 - ☼ Cabbage
 - ☼ Carrots
 - ☼ Cauliflower
 - ☼ Cucumbers
 - ☼ Endive/Escarole
 - ☼ Lettuce
 - ☼ Onions
 - ☼ Radishes
 - ☼ Summer Squash
 - ☼ Turnips
- Tender vegetables must be planted in early September.
- Herbs to plant include:
- ☼ Basil
 - ☼ Mexican Tarragon
 - ☼ Mints
 - ☼ Rosemary
- For some fall color to your flower beds add:
- ☼ Ageratum
 - ☼ Celosia
 - ☼ Wax Begonias
 - ☼ Zinnias
- Dig and reset Amaryllis plants now.
- Divide large bulbs and remove offsets (bulblets) replant in an area that has been amended with organic matter.
- Continue to monitor the lawn for insect damage.
- Watch for brown patch fungus disease, which attacks lawns when the weather is cool and wet. It is most commonly found in St. Augustine, centipede and Bermuda lawns. The grass dies in roughly circular areas that may be 5 to 6 feet in diameter. In St. Augustine grass, the leaf blades rot where they attach to the runners. Apply an approved lawn fungicide according to label directions.

Small Farms Workshops - September 10, 2009 - October 1, 2009

The training sessions are to help small farm producers get their product to local markets, address obstacles for small producers, and identify new market segments for selling products locally.

Workshop presentations will address and provide the following:

Session 1: September 10, 2009

- ◇ Safe Food Handling
- ◇ FL State Food Regulations, Federal Food Laws as they apply to FL

Session 2: September 17, 2009

- ◇ Assessment of Market Potential and Sales Venues
- ◇ Price Discovery-Deciding What to Charge

Session 3: September 24, 2009

- ◇ Interpersonal Skills-The Art of Selling to People
- ◇ Packaging Requirements

Session 4: October 1, 2009

- ◇ Basic Merchandising and Marketing

◇ Cash Flow and Accountability

The programs are free of charge and open to everyone. Early registration is recommended for participants. The availability of program notebooks and materials will be based on pre-registration numbers.

For More information Contact:

Les Harrison-Leon County Extension Office 850-606-5202 or email him at harrisosng@leoncountyfl.gov

Multiple Enterprises Workshop - September 10, 2009 at 6:00PM

Northeast Florida Small Farms Working Group presents a Reconnecting Urban Customers With The Farm Through Multiple Enterprises.

Eddie and Betty Jean Conner were "retired" from the poultry business in 2002. In order to maintain their farm, they opened a corn maze. Thousands of

school children have been reconnected to the rural lifestyle through their efforts and the income from their various enterprises has enabled them to stay on the farm. The Conner's also have a hydroponic vegetable operation, farm fresh eggs, and beef cattle.

All farmers interested in diversifying their operation are invited

to attend. The registration fee is \$5. Please RSVP to Nassau County Extension (904) 879-1019 by Tuesday, September 8th.

Agenda

- 6:00 PM Registration
- 6:30 PM BBQ Dinner
- 7:00 PM Educational Tour
- 8:30 PM Wrap-up

Wildlife Field Day & Archery Tournament - Saturday, September 12, 2009

On September 12th the program will begin at 8:30AM to 12:00PM and Tournament following. A meal will be provided.

Program will Include:

- ★ Land Management for Wildlife
- ★ Deer Herd Management
- ★ Wild Turkey Management

★ Soil Sampling for Food Plots
★ Wildlife Food Plot Demos
Program will be held at the North Florida Research and Education Center—Suwannee Valley, 7580 CR 136, Live Oak, FL 32060.

Archery Tournament Open to Participants on a Realistic 3-D Hunting

Course. Prizes will be provided for 1st—3rd Place. Entry Fee for Tournament of \$20 per participant.

RSVP by calling the Suwannee County Conservation District before September 8th at (386) 362-2622 x3 or sccd@rocketmail.com

Stewardship Property Tour - Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Forestry Stewardship is having a Property Tour at Bern and Jan Hadden Smith's at 9:00AM. For more information and to **RSVP** please call the Madison County Extension Agent at (850) 973-4138. The following is the current schedule:

Stop 1: Pond

Leaders: Bernard Smith, Chuck Cichra

- ⊗ What does it take to establish a pond—from which agencies do landowners need permit(s), who can assist with the process?
- ⊗ What are feasible options for fish species and what are some very basic and general guidelines for managing a population?
- ⊗ What other types of wildlife are using or will use this pond?

Stop 2: Transition Zone Between Wet Prairie And Pine-Hardwood Forest

Leaders: Bernard Smith, Kris Cathey, Ricky Lackey

- ⊗ How was fire used to manage this area?
- ⊗ What are the wildlife benefits of transition zones?

Stop 3: Pine Plantations

Leaders: Bernard Smith

- ⊗ Why were these stand established?
- ⊗ What cost-shares were used to fund management?

Stop 4: Opening

Leaders: Bernard Smith, Jim Flemming, Chris Demers

- ⊗ Invasive species-chinaberry
- ⊗ Practice demonstrations-

mechanical vegetation management with roller chopper, tree cutter and/or mulcher.

Stop 5: Southern Pine Beetle Thinning

Leaders: Bernard Smith, Jim Flemming

- ⊗ What is the southern pine beetle and how can landowners tell if they have an infestation?
- ⊗ How can an infestation be prevented?
- ⊗ What can be done to salvage a stand infested with SPB?

Stop 6: Duval Pond

Leaders: Bernard Smith, Roy Lima, Cathy Hardin

- ⊗ Silviculture Best Management Practices

Horse Camping Workshop - Tuesday, September 22, 2009 @ 8:30AM

Horse Camping A Potential Way to Add Revenue to the Farm will be a day long educational program. Event is located at the Black Prong Equestrian Center, 450 SE CR 337, Bronson, FL 32621. Program will include:

- △ Amenities needed for horse

camping

- △ Finding campers
- △ Marketing your facility
- △ Regulations affecting camping facilities

Cost is \$20/person which includes breaks, lunch and materials. Payment

MUST be received by September 18th deadline.

You may register by calling Karen Hancock at (386) 362-1725 ext 101 or email khancock@ufl.edu

Fall Goat Production Conference - Saturday, September 26, 2009

The Florida Meat Goat Association, Inc. is conducting the Fall Goat Conference in Ocala. Registration fee includes Lectures, Workshops and Lunch. **You must pre-register prior to September 12th with payment and registration form** (available online at the Madison website or call for registration form).

Program will include:

- ° Learn more about raising meat goats

and other small ruminants.

- ° Health of the Pregnant Doe/Birthing Problems & Solutions
- ° USDA EQUIP Program - Monetary Help Setting Up Your Farm
- ° Fencing, Shelters, & Rotational Grazing - How to Save On Your Feed Bill
- ° Fall Plants That Could be Toxic to Goats
- ° Markets & Marketing - Pets or Meat

- Where & Who Are Our Customers
- ° Nutritional Management for Meat Goats
- ° When Are Ear Tags Needed?
- ° Fall Forages & Pastures
- ° Hands-On-Identifying Parasite Problems, Drenching/Strategic deworming, Hoof Trimming, Castrating, Taking Temperatures, etc.

http://madison.ifas.ufl.edu/ag_classes.shtml