

Madison County Agriculture News



Madison County Extension
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The Foundation for The Gator Nation
An Equal Opportunity Institution

A Note From Your Agent

November is a great time to get outside. Cooler temperatures are here and most of the insects are not. I would like to remind everyone that did not have their soil tested last year now is the time to take a sample. Proper soil ph is required for maximum absorption of nutrients by the plant. If the soil ph is not correct, now is the time to apply lime so the ph will be corrected by the spring. We have soil sample kits available at the Extension Office. The cost is seven dollars per sample.

Sincerely,

Events To Remember...More Detail Inside About Events

NOVEMBER 2009:

Thursday 5th - Agricultural Enterprise Workshops

Thursday 5th—Sunday 15th - North Florida Fair, Tallahassee, FL

Wednesday 11th - Veterans Day - OFFICE CLOSED

Friday 13th or Saturday 14th - Advanced Topics in Hydroponics

Monday 16th and Monday 30th - CSA Enterprises

Thursday 19th - Forest Stewardship and Tree Farm Property Tour

Thursday 26th—Friday 27th - Thanksgiving Day - OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 2009:

Thursday 3rd - Watermelon Meeting

Wednesday 9th - Private Pesticide Applicator School and Exam

Thursday 10th - Forest Stewardship Video-Conference

Saturday 12th - Perennial Peanut Association Meeting

Thursday 24th—Friday 25th - Christmas Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED

November 2009

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Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examination

Forest Stewardship Videoconference

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

- Take soil samples on pastures and hay fields now.
- Watch cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Calve in well drained pastures.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tenancy has been a problem in the past.
- Treat external parasites if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Look for poisonous weeds in pastures.
- Begin summarizing your annual

records for both production and tax purposes.

- Review plans for the upcoming breeding



Lawn and Garden Tips

This is a good month to transplant potted trees and shrubs. Divide and replant overgrown perennials and bulbs now so that they establish before the coolest weather arrives. Bulbs to plant this month include:

- ✓ Amaryllis
- ✓ Crinum
- ✓ Daylilies

Bedding plants for fall color include:

- ✓ Pansies
- ✓ Ornamental Cabbages
- ✓ Chrysanthemums

Herbs to plant during this cool season are the following:

- ✓ Basil
- ✓ Dill
- ✓ Fennel
- ✓ Parsley
- ✓ Sage
- ✓ Thyme

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

- ✓ Beets
- ✓ Broccoli

- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Kale
- ✓ Lettuce

For green lawns during the winter months plant ryegrass this month.

Watch for Brown Patch, this is a fungal disease that is difficult to treat.

Look for areas that turn brown.

Use dormant oil sprays to control scale insects on ornamental plants.



Wildlife Happenings

Birds

- ◆ Set up winter feeders.
- ◆ Cedar Waxwings come South for the winter.
- ◆ Look for Woodpeckers on suet feeders.
- ◆ Bald Eagles begin their nesting season. Look for spectacular aerial courtship displays.
- ◆ Sandhill Cranes return in full force from their breeding grounds up North. (Only a small number live here all year round).
- ◆ Many Yellow-Rumped Warblers and Palm Warblers will be



neighborhoods, natural areas and yards.

- ◆ Gray Catbirds have already arrived and will be skulking (and cat calling) in thickets.
- ◆ Kinglets, Phoebes, Robins and other Northern song birds have arrived for the winter.

Mammals

- ◆ Peak of deer rutting in Central and North Florida.
- ◆ Bears are on the move and crossing roads, especially in Central Florida.
- ◆ As water temperatures lower, manatees begin to move to

relatively warm waters at springs.

- ◆ Look for migrating Hoary and Red Bats in North Florida.

Amphibians

- ◆ Ornate chorus frogs begin calling.

Fish

- ◆ Spotted Sea Trout should enter tidal creeks around Thanksgiving.
- ◆ Bass congregate around jetties in south end of Lake George.

Trees

- ◆ Cypress begin turning a rust color.

Advanced Topics in Hydroponics

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

Community Supported Agriculture Workshop

*Successfully Managing Your
Community Supported Agriculture
Enterprise*

For those who wish to either start or are currently running a CSA Enterprise. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is when a community of individuals pledges support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or philosophically, the community's farm. The growers and consumers provide mutual support and share the risks and benefits of food production.

**November 16th and 30th 2009 from
6:00-9:00pm at the Clay County
Extension Office.**

November 16th Topics:

CSA Structure and Organization—
Types of CSA's, Potential management roles and responsibilities, Variations and Innovations on the CSA model, and Potential CSA challenges.

CSA Outreach—Recruitment, Communications (web resources, newsletters, surveys etc.) and Farm message.

CSA Administration—Share Types, Billing, Pricing, Distribution, Data Management, and Advertising.

November 30th Topics:

CSA Crop Planning—Crop planning, Harvest Schedules, Weekly/seasonal harvest goals.

CSA Business Planning and Budgeting—Sample Business plans and Sample budgets.

CSA Producer Profile and Q&A

Registration for each session is \$10, Please RSVP by November 13th to insure space. For additional information or to RSVP contact David Nistler at 904-284-6355.

Stewardship and Tree Farm Property

The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch is over 3,000 acres, a fifth of which is in the Suwannee River hardwood hammock community. A little over 1,500 acres are in various ages of planted pine, hedgerows, ponds, swamps and openings. The remaining acres are dedicated to agricultural, residential and administrative activities. Beef cattle and timber production are integrated on the property using activities. Beef cattle and timber

production are integrated on the property using wide spacing between double rows of planted pines to provide for optimized cattle grazing and timber growth on these soil types. Wildlife habitat enhancement is considered an important stewardship obligation and provides educational opportunities for the resident youth and improves to the overall aesthetic qualities of the ranch property. Join us for a tour of this property. Be prepared for some

walking.

A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour, TBA. This program is free but you must preregister. **Call the Suwannee County Extension Office at (386) 362-2771 to register. Attendance will be limited so please register soon!**

Programs is on Thursday, November 19, 2009; meet and greet at 9:00AM Eastern Time. Program begins promptly at 9:30AM.

Watermelon Meeting

On December 3, 2009 at 2:30PM to 8:00PM in Branford, Florida there will be a Watermelon Meeting. There is no fee for this program but you do need to register. Reserve a spot by contacting Karen at 386-362-1725 ext 101.

AGENDA

Soil Fumigation—*Dr. Joe Noling, Extension Nematology Specialist*

- ◆ Label Changes
- ◆ Setback Restrictions
- ◆ New Personal Protection Equipment Requirements

Weeds—*Dr. Bill Stall, Extension Weed Specialist*

- ◆ New Labels
- ◆ Herbicides for Row Middles and Under Plastic Mulches
- ◆ Research and Cautions for Sprays Over Plastic Mulch

Insects—*Dr. Susan Webb, Extension Entomology Specialist*

- ◆ New Products and Labels

- ◆ Protecting Bees from Sprays
- ◆ Managing Primary Pests (aphid, rind worm, thrips, cutworms, ants, and whitefly)

Diseases—*Dr. Steve Olson, Extension Vegetable Specialist and Bob Hochmuth, Extension Agent*

- ◆ Managing Fungicide Resistance
- ◆ Fungicide Spray Rotation Strategies
- ◆ Update on Gummy Stem Blight Research in Georgia and Florida

Dinner—*Sponsored by Watermelon Industry Suppliers & Supporters.*

Prepared by the Lafayette & Suwannee Conservation District

Watermelon Variety and Pollenizer

Update—*Dr. Steve Olson, Extension Vegetable Specialist*

- ◆ Variety Trial Results
- ◆ Pollenizer Research Update

Irrigation and Nutrient BMPs—*Mace Bauer, Extension BMP Implementation Team Leader; Bob Hochmuth, Extension*

Agent; and Riley Putnal, Putnal Farms

- ◆ Practical Water and Nutrient Management from a Farmers Perspective
- ◆ Lessons Learned from On-Farm Blue Dye Demonstrations

Water Use and Permitting Laws—

Glen Horavath, Suwannee River Water Management District

- ◆ Current Status of Irrigation Permits in North Florida

Update from the National

Watermelon Promotion Board—

Mark Arney, Executive Director, National Watermelon Promotion Board

How to Implement a Food Safety

Program on Your Farm—*Gail Hodge, Hodge Farms-Newberry, FL; Laura & Jody Land, Raymond J. Land Watermelon Sales-Branford, FL*

- ◆ Suggestions and examples on how local farmers have implemented a food safety program and made it work for them.

Private Pesticide Applicator School & Examinations

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 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

Forest Stewardship Videoconference

There will be a Forest Stewardship Videoconference: Find Technical and Financial Assistance for Small Farm, Forest and Wildlife Management on December 10, 2009 at 1:00PM to 5:00PM at the Madison County Extension Office. Please call the Madison County Extension Office by December 4th if you wish to attend to ensure that you get all materials.

The program will be about:

Finding financial and/or technical assistance for management practices is a challenge, especially for landowners

pursuing assistance for the first time. This program will help you with the process of applying for assistance and provide an update on the current technical and/or cost-share assistance programs available to fund farm, forest or wildlife management practices. Sources of assistance with controlling invasive species and creating and managing farm ponds will also be included.

Tentative Agenda:

1:00 Sign-in, meet and greet
1:15 Program Introduction,
www.Floridainvasives.org
1:30 Be Ready to Apply, USDA Farm
Bill Programs
2:15 Division of Forestry (DOF)
Assistance
3:00 Break
3:15 Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission (FWC) Assistance
4:00 Assistance with Farm Ponds
4:45 Questions & Answers,
Conclusion, Evaluation, Adjourn