

Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida, 34470
(352) 671-8400



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MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

SEPT. 2009

Only 1 More Issue . . .
“Marion County Livestock News”

Beginning November 1, 2009 Marion County Extension will no longer mail hard copies of “Marion County Livestock News”.

- Bulk mail – The bulk mail program, Envelope Manager, will no longer be available as of November 1, 2009 and mail funds will be extremely limited. Due to postage budget cuts, newsletters will no longer be mailed. Beginning November 1, 2009 the “*Marion County Livestock News*” newsletter will not be delivered via US mail.
- However, newsletters will still be published and made available via e-mail. Additionally, hard copies may be picked up at the Extension Office.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE COPY

- Contact the Extension Office at 671-8400 to give your e-mail address and continue enjoying the “*Marion County Livestock News*”.

Florida Equine Management Courses

Plan now to attend one of these upcoming Fall 2009 courses:

Florida Equine Management II is scheduled for Monday nights beginning September 28 (6 – 9 pm) for 9 weeks at Marion County Agriculture Center \$75 (Classroom).

Topics include: Principles of Horseshoeing & Hoof Care; Demo & Hoof Care Lab; Equine Conformation and Selection; Equine Dental Care; Feeding Management; Veterinary Care and First-Aid; Equine Behavior; Farm Safety and Equipment Maintenance.

Advanced Equine Nutrition will meet Monday nights (6 – 8 pm); 4 weeks, September 28 through October 19, 2009 at the Marion County Agriculture Center \$55 (Conference Room).

Topics Include: Feeding to Prevent Digestive Upsets, Confusion About Carbs, Equine Supplements, Feed Tag Information and Determining Feed Value.

Managing Florida Horse Pastures is scheduled for Monday nights beginning October 26 (6 – 8 pm) for 4 weeks at the Marion County Agriculture Center \$55 (Conference Room).

Topics include: Soil Sampling, Fertilization, Horse Farm Weed Control, Toxic Weeds.

To register for these courses, contact the Ag Center at (352) 671-8400.

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Fall & Coping with Pasture Mole Crickets

Mole crickets can substantially reduce forage and hay production in pastures and hay fields in Florida by tunneling of the sod. They feed on leaves and stems of bahiagrass but mainly on the root system. Roots damaged by mole crickets cannot provide the necessary support and cannot take up water and nutrients to nourish the plant, causing death of the roots and over time the affected bahiagrass stand. The most harmful of the three pest species is the tawny mole cricket, *Scapteriscus vicinus*, and the notes below refer to that species.

With the beginning of the spring, usually in March, the female insects fly while the males make tunnels and sing to attract females. The females lay eggs in April and May. Eggs incubate for three weeks, whereupon nymphs (which look like tiny adults but have no wings) start hatching and developing. The nymphs feed and develop from May through early September, whereupon many of them become adults (a few spend the winter as large nymphs). In cold weather, mole crickets become inactive deep underground, but they will still move close to the surface and feed during warm spells.

What mole cricket pasture damage to look for in the fall?

In September, look for galleries (horizontal tunnels just below the surface), churned up soil, and patches of yellow grass that later turns brown before completely dying--caused by the new adults and the developing nymphs.

The only commercial control available and recommended at this time is to treat using beneficial nematodes (Nematoc is the commercial product from Becker Underwood) that kills pest mole crickets. The product Nematoc is best applied subsurface using a chisel rig when the soil is wet. (see extension publication EDIS # ENY 663/ IN413). Or, a boom sprayer may be used when the soil is completely soaked, or during rain. The nematodes should be applied in strips (apply one strip, skip seven, apply one, etc.) across a mole-cricket-infested pasture, because the nematodes are alive and will fill in the untreated strips in about six months.

A parasitic wasp called *Larra bicolor* that was first released in Alachua County has now spread to almost all counties in central and northern Florida.

This wasp provides some level of free biological control of pest mole crickets wherever it occurs, and eventually should spread everywhere in Florida. The wasp gets its energy by feeding on nectar at flowers of

certain plants. These plants include *Spermacoce verticillata* (shrubby false buttonweed or larraflower) and *Chamaecrista fasciculata* (partridge pea). Propagation of these wildflowers will benefit the wasp (see extension EDIS publication EENY-268).

Dr. Yoana Newman
Extension Specialist – Forage Management
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Dr. Howard Frank, Professor
Entomology & Nematology
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HERBICIDE RESISTANCE

At this time of year, all the herbicides for a given crop have been sprayed. But before we turn our attention away from weed control for another year, **it is important that we stop and think about the efficacy of our spray program.** In particular, we need to think about herbicide resistance.

Resistance: Palmer amaranth has been documented to be resistant to the ALS family of chemistry (Cadre, Accent, Staple, Strongarm, Envoke, etc.) and glyphosate. Although glyphosate and ALS resistance has not been documented in North Florida, that **does not** mean that resistant Palmer amaranth has not invaded this area. Now is an excellent time to critically scout fields and attempt to determine the success of your weed control program.

What to look for: The most important observation is the **pattern of existing weeds**. Were all weeds controlled except for one area in the field? Usually resistance begins with one plant. It will drop seeds that are also resistant – so failure to control “weed islands” in the field is very indicative of the early stages of resistance. It is also possible to bring weed seed into a field with contaminated equipment. See if there is a pattern with the weeds heaviest on one side of the field. That would be indicative of a path the picker traveled last season.

The most obvious factor is **living and dead weeds occurring in the same area**. Some weeds will not be controlled because they were not emerged at the time of application, or maybe they were too large for the herbicide dose to be effective. However, if you observed side by side weeds living and dead weeds that are of similar age, chances are that resistant weeds are present.

What to do if you suspect resistance

If possible, remove these plants from the field to prohibit more resistant seed from dropping. If there are too many

suspect weeds for hand removal to be a reasonable option, think seriously about what crop you can grow in this area next year. For example, if you suspect glyphosate resistance, it could be useful to rotate away from cotton or soybeans where glyphosate is the foundation of the weed control program. Consider corn and plan to use the maximum allowable atrazine rate (3 pints PRE followed by 2 pints POST). If you suspect ALS resistance, rotate away from peanuts since Cadre is the principle herbicide and plan to incorporate corn or cotton. If using cotton, a good residual herbicide program will be necessary to keep these weeds in check.

Herbicide resistant weeds have been around for a long time and crop producers have successfully managed them. But, it does require a greatly increased level of **management**. There are still several herbicides and application options (such as spray hoods) that can help overcome these resistant weeds. But applications must be made in a timely fashion that targets small weeds. Also, new research has indicated that Palmer amaranth cannot emerge from a depth of greater than 2" and that seeds only remain viable in the soil for 3 years. Though we have no data to prove this, deep tillage followed by 2 or 3 years of intense weed control may reduce Palmer amaranth pressure in some fields.

Dr. Jason Ferrell,
Weed Specialist
jferrell@ufl.edu

Clyde Smith, Regional IPM Agent
Jackson County

CFLAG Wildlife Management Seminar

September 10, 2009

Barthle Brothers Seminar

San Antonio, FL

8:30 – Noon

- Integrating Livestock, Wildlife & Timber Production
- Quality Deer Management
- Big Fish Lake – Past, Present & Future
- What has happened to Bobwhite Quail in Florida?
- Are there changes in store for Florida Deer Seasons?

- Wildlife Food Plot Planting & Management

Registration Fee - \$25; Lunch Provided

RSVP by September 1, 2009

Call 352-521-4288 to register

Make check payable to: CFLAG

Mail to:

Pasco County Extension

36702 SR 52

Dade City, FL 33525

Beef Cattle Management Tips

September

- Cut hay.
- Heavily graze pastures to be interplanted to cool season pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for mole crickets, spittlebugs, and grassloopers and treat if necessary.
- Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Remove open, unsound or poor producing cows.
- Train cowboys to observe normal and abnormal behavior and signs of disease.
- Be sure any replacement purchases are healthy and were calfhood vaccinated for brucellosis.
- September or October is a good time to deworm the cow herd if internal parasites are a problem.
- When replacement heifers are weaned, give them required vaccinations and teach them to eat – then put them on a good nutrition program.
- Determine bull replacement needs, develop selection criteria, and start checking availability of quality animals.
- Review winter feed supply and feeding plans so that needed adjustments can be made before supplies tighten and prices rise.

October

- Plant cool season legumes.
- Plant small grain pastures.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Check for external parasites, especially lice, and treat if needed.
- Check for spittlebugs and grassloopers and treat, if needed.
- Watch condition of cow herd; maintain adequate nutrition.
- Isolate any additions to the herd for 30 to 60 days and observe for signs of disease; retest for brucellosis and leptospirosis.
- Be sure you have adequate handling facilities, and they are in good working order.
- If you are raising bulls for the commercial market, October thru December is the main bull-buying season for cattlemen in south Florida and now is the time to have your promotion program fully activated.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension

2009

Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

Thursday, September 17
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Southeastern Livestock Pavilion
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida 34470

UF Professors ~ Equine Industry
Professionals

Allied Trade Show ~ Live Animal Demos

– Registration is required –
\$25.00 (before September 4th)
\$50.00 (on-site or after September 4th)

Registration form available @
<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>

Discussion Topics:

“Weed ID/Control & Herbicide Selection”

“These Ain't Your Father's Parasites:
Dewormer resistance and new strategies
for parasite control”

“Riding With Rhythm”

“The “Unwanted” Horse in the US: An
Overview of the Issue”

Call Marion County Extension

352-671-8400

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