

Marion County Extension Service  
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## MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

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### 2005 Florida Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show

The Central Florida Livestock Agents Group would like to invite you to the 2005 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala, Florida. The Central Florida Livestock Agents Group is an organization made up of seven County Extension Agents, representing ten counties in Central Florida. This annual event focuses on the equine production industry as it relates to sport (including racing and competitive events) and recreational horses.

The theme for the 2005 educational program is "*Maintaining Performance for Competition and Pleasure*". This University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service program is designed to provide Florida Horsemen and Horsewomen with current equine management information and a "working" Trade Show. A complete agenda is available on-line at <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/cflag.html>

The Trade Show will open at 8:00 am and the seminars will begin at 9:00 am. Highlights of the educational program include the following topics and speakers: "*Managing Horse Manure by Composting*" – Lori Warren, PhD, Equine Nutritionist, University of Florida; "*Maintaining the Mouth of Equine Athletes*" – Kent Seamonson, DVM, Tomoka Equine Practice, DeLand; "*Common Lamenesses*" – Murray Brown, DVM, Chief, Large Animal Surgery, University of Florida; "*Florida Equine Waste Management/BMP's*" – Saundra TenBroeck, Equine Specialist, University of Florida; "*Techniques & Technology in Hoof Care*" – Ed Johnson, Equine Extension Specialist, University of Florida; "*Boots & Bandages*" (performance, shipping, wounds) – Panel Discussion; "*Saddle Fitting & Pad Selection*" (Live Animal Demo) – Blake Kral, Master Saddle Maker, Morriston & Joel McQuagge, Saddle Maker, Gainesville.

**Register Now To Win \$500 Gift Certificate!** Each paid participant registration to the 2005 Florida Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 gift certificate good at Tack Shack of Ocala, Inc or Tack Shack Too. Their website is <http://www.tackshackofocala.com/>

The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the program on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2005. You do not need to be present to win.

Registration includes admission to all seminars, trade show, a printed copy of the speakers' papers, refreshment breaks and catered lunch. Additionally, each paid registrant will be eligible to win a \$500 gift certificate for use at *Tack Shack of Ocala, Inc* or their "New" store *Tack Shack Too*.

Registration forms are available on-line at <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/cflag.html> or send name, address and phone number along with a check or money order to reserve your spot and to be entered in \$500 gift certificate drawing. Make check or money order payable to Marion County Extension and mail to Mark Shuffitt, Marion County Extension Service, 2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470-3615.

Early registration is \$25.00 if postmarked on or before September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Student Registration is \$15.00 (student ID required). On-site registration or Late Registration (postmarked after September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005) is \$50.00.

**Trade Show Exhibitor Information:** Sponsorship levels are available from \$150 - \$2000. For a detailed description of specific sponsorship level benefits, go to <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/cflag.html> or phone 352-671-8400.

Set up for the Trade Show will be on a first come, first serve basis beginning at NOON on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, 2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, Florida. If you have any special needs for unloading equipment, contact Mark Shuffitt by September 12<sup>th</sup> at 352-671-8400.

For exhibitor convenience, an informal, light-lunch buffet and refreshments will be available during set up for the trade show on Wednesday from Noon - 2:00 pm. No program, no speakers, just good food. Please let us know how many lunches you will need.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Shuffitt at the Marion County Extension Office (352) 671-8400 or Ed Jennings (352) 521-4288. We will do everything we can to assist you.

## **MOST COMPREHENSIVE HORSE STUDY EVER REVEALS A NEARLY \$40 BILLION IMPACT ON THE U.S. ECONOMY**

The horse industry in the United States contributes \$39 billion in direct economic impact to the US economy and supports 1.4 million jobs on a full-time basis, according to a new study released today by the American Horse Council (AHC). When indirect and induced spending are included, the industry's economic impact reaches \$102 billion. The study also estimates the horse population in this country has reached 9.2 million.

The study, conducted by Deloitte Consulting, LLC over the last year, was commissioned by the American Horse Council Foundation with major funding support from the American Quarter Horse Association, The Jockey Club, the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and Breeders' Cup Limited, Keeneland Association, American Paint Horse Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, U.S. Trotting Association, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association and the U.S. Equestrian Federation.

The study, titled *The Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in the United States*, is the most comprehensive research document ever compiled on the American horse industry. (The media can access a summary of the report at [www.HorseCouncil.org](http://www.HorseCouncil.org).)

The study reveals:

- An industry that is both large and economically diverse, as well as a key contributor to the overall fabric of the U.S. economy;
- Horse owners and industry suppliers, racetracks, and off-track betting operations, horse shows and other industry segments all generate discrete economic activity contributing to the vibrancy of the overall industry;
- Of the total economic impacts reported, approximately \$32.0 billion is generated from the recreational segment; \$28.8 billion from the showing segment and \$26.1 billion is generated from the racing segment.

"This study paints a portrait of an industry that operates in every corner of the country and contributes mightily to the American economy and culture," said Jay Hickey, President of the AHC. "Never before has the impact of our industry been so dramatically demonstrated."

"Millions of Americans have a personal commitment to the horse industry, from the grassroots to those who compete nationally and internationally," said David O'Connor President of the United States Equestrian Federation and an Individual Olympic Gold Medalist. "Some are kids riding their backyard horse for the sheer joy of it, some support their family working for an equine business, and others are breeders and competitors at the highest levels. Together they contribute billions to the economic health of our country through their shared passion for the great American icon, the horse."

"We know horses have a special place in America's history and culture. This study clearly demonstrates the horse industry's significant role in America's economy too," said Congressman Don Sherwood (R-Pennsylvania), a breeder of

draft horses. "When you have a tough week in Congress, there is nothing like going home, cleaning a stall, and grooming a broodmare. The old saying that there is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man is so true."

"This study reveals the importance of the recreational sector of the horse industry. My Right to Ride legislation will help this growing sector of the horse industry continue to enjoy the trails and public lands on horseback", said Congressman George Radanovich (R-California), a rider. "Horse and saddle-stock use on federal land has a long tradition in American culture. Riding livestock is a great way to explore and experience our federal lands; we must preserve our riding heritage."

"As someone who has spent a lifetime around horses, I understand how much they are a central piece of our nation's fabric, from rodeos and trail riding to racing and showing," said Representative Joel Hefley (R-Colorado). "This report demonstrates how horses of every breed positively impact our economy and our way of life."

"This study confirms what many of us in the Congress already knew, that the American horse industry is a vital contributor to the U.S. economy while bringing pleasure to millions of people," said Senator Mitch McConnell, (R-Kentucky).

Some of the key industry statistics and economic indicators reflected in the study include:

- **Estimated number of horses in the U.S.**
  - 9.2 million
- **Estimated number of horses by Activity**
  - Recreation, 3,906,923
  - Showing, 2,718,954
  - Racing, 844,531
  - Other, 1,752,439
- **Estimated number of horses by Breed**
  - Quarter Horse, 3,288,203
  - Thoroughbred, 1,291,807
  - Other Horses, 4,642,739
- **Estimated number of horses in each of the 50 states.**
  - Texas (one million), California (700,000) and Florida (500,000) are the leading horse states.
  - 45 of 50 states have at least 20,000 horses.
- **Number of people participating in the industry.**
  - By form of participation (e.g., owner, volunteer, etc.).
    - Owners, 2 million
    - Volunteers, 2 million
  - By demographic breakdown (age, income, etc.).
- **Direct, indirect and induced economic impacts of the industry on U.S. and individual state economies.**
  - Contributions to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
    - Nationally, \$102 billion via direct, indirect and induced spending.

- Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs produced.
  - 1.4 million.

In conducting the study, Deloitte contacted 400,000 horse owners and other industry participants involved in all segments of the horse industry, including people involved in both the recreational and commercial spheres. The report is available for a fee by contacting the AHCF at [www.HorseCouncil.org](http://www.HorseCouncil.org).

### **About American Horse Council**

The AHC represents the horse industry in Washington, D.C. Organized in 1969, it has been promoting and protecting the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests. The AHC is member supported by individuals and organizations representing every facet of the horse world, including owners, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, breed registers, horsemen's associations, race tracks, rodeos, commercial suppliers and state horse councils.

### **Blackberry & Dewberry: Biology/Control**

There are numerous *Rubus* (blackberry and dewberry) species in the Southeastern U.S., many of which are found in Florida. Blackberry is commonly found in fence rows, ditch banks, and pastures and can be overlooked for extended periods of time. However, lack of management can give rise to thickets that are difficult to control.

Blackberry and dewberry are often viewed simply as nuisance weeds that reduce grazing within a portion of the field. This may not seem that detrimental. However, severe financial losses can occur if cattle are injured by these growing thickets. For example, a bull's reproductive organs can be severely damaged by blackberry or dewberry thorns. Lesions or scratches from the thorns may result in infection or complete loss of reproductive performance. Lactating cows and dairy cows are not safe either. Thorns can scratch and cause infections of the udder, which may result in lower milk production. Therefore, blackberry infestations can result in monetary losses from both reduced grazing and potential animal injury.

#### **Identification**

It may be difficult to distinguish dewberry and blackberry when looking at a single leaf. However, the overall plant appearance and growth habits of these two species are quite different. Dewberry has a low, vine-like growth habit and will rarely reach greater than 2 feet in height ([Figure 1](#)). Blackberry has a very upright growth pattern and will commonly reach 3 to 6 feet in height ([Figure 2](#)). Dewberry commonly has slender thorns with red hairs on the stem ([Figure 3](#)) while blackberry has hard, tough thorns and no hairs. Additionally, the seeds in dewberry fruit are much larger and tougher than those in blackberry.

#### **Biology**

Blackberry is a perennial, thicket-forming shrub that is common throughout the southeastern U.S. Under each plant is a large lateral-growing root system that will sprout and produce additional plants. The rhizomatous root system is perennial while the above-ground canes are biennial (living for two years). The first year, the canes emerge and grow rapidly; the second year, the canes bud and produce flowers and fruit. The canes subsequently die after fruiting.

### **Control**

Herbicide application timing is important for effective blackberry control. Blackberry is most sensitive to herbicides when blooming in late spring and in the fall prior to frost. Applications made soon after emergence from winter dormancy or during fruiting are generally less effective. It is also important that the plants are not drought-stressed at the time of herbicide application. Therefore, applications made during the spring or summer months, when regular rainfall is common, are often the most effective times to spray.

Mowing is an effective practice if the goal is to keep blackberry at a manageable size until herbicide treatment is warranted. However, controlling blackberry by mowing alone is difficult and often ineffective. The large underground root structures are difficult to kill with mowing and resprouting of the cut stems is common. Additionally, blackberry propagates from both seed and rhizomes. Therefore, mowing at bloom will reduce seed production, but will do little to stop the spread of blackberry rhizomes.

However, mowing can be an effective component when combined with herbicides. Large, dense thickets often have many dead canes with no leaves or 2-year-old canes that possess old leaves. Old leaves do not absorb herbicide sprays as effectively as new foliage and are not as susceptible to herbicide applications. Additionally, dead canes can intercept the spray and decrease herbicide contact with susceptible foliage. Therefore, mowing will reduce the size of the thicket and make herbicide application easier.

Herbicides should not be applied in the same growing season as mowing. Applying herbicides soon after mowing will often lead to ineffective or inconsistent control. The most effective strategy is mowing followed by 6 months of active blackberry regrowth before herbicide treatment. In north Florida, for example, if mowing takes place in October, it is often best to delay herbicide applications until the following August since blackberry does not actively grow from November to February.

Soon after herbicide application it may be necessary to mow the dead blackberry plants to improve grazing in the treated area. However, it is best to allow the herbicide to work for approximately 6 weeks before the dead canes are mowed and removed. This will allow the herbicide sufficient time to act before the treated plants are destroyed.

Another factor to consider is herbicide application volume. To control the massive underground root system, thorough spray coverage of the foliage is essential. To achieve proper coverage, sprayer output should be calibrated to deliver between 30 and 40 gallons of spray solution per acre.

### **Herbicides**

Currently, several herbicides list blackberry on their label. The most effective herbicides are Banvel, Cimarron, Remedy (or Garlon), and PastureGard. Velpar is a less effective herbicide option. Weedmaster and 2,4-D will reduce the growth for a period of weeks, but individual plants rarely die and thicket density will not be reduced.

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## Blackberry and Dewberry (cont. from pg. 3)

PastureGard (triclopyr + fluroxypyr) and Remedy (triclopyr) can safely be applied to bermudagrass and bahiagrass and are currently the most effective herbicide options. Remedy at 2 pints per acre (\$20) or Pasturegard at 3 or 4 pints per acre (\$18 or \$24) applied when blooming can provide excellent control of blackberry. These herbicides will cause rapid blackberry death (relative to Cimarron which is more slow acting) while controlling many other broadleaf species. Remedy will not control dewberry. Pasturegard applied at 4 pints per acre is more effective on dewberry, but only fair control (60 or 70%) should be expected.

Cimarron (metsulfuron methyl) is currently labeled for use only in bermudagrass pastures at a rate of 0.4 ounces per acre. Cimarron cannot be applied to bahiagrass or severe injury or death of the forage will occur. Cimarron is most effective when applied late in the fall, prior to frost. It must be noted that blackberry control with Cimarron will be reduced if applied after a prolonged period of dry weather. Therefore, fall applications must be made when there is adequate soil moisture to sustain active growth. At a cost of approximately \$10 per acre, Cimarron is an attractive option for many producers. However, the maximum application rate of 0.4 ounces per acre is

somewhat low for blackberry and may provide inconsistent control. Currently, Cimarron is the most effective herbicide for dewberry control.

Banvel (dicamba) is a highly effective herbicide that can be used to control numerous weed species. However, Banvel must be applied at a rate of 2 quarts per acre to effectively control blackberry. Considering this application costs approximately \$40 per acre, Banvel is rarely the most economical option.

### **Summary**

Complete blackberry and dewberry eradication is difficult and will likely require multiple applications and/or tactics. When relying solely upon herbicides to control these species, it is best to spray when blooming or in the fall prior to frost. If a mowing strategy is employed, at least six months of active regrowth should occur prior to herbicide application, and at least six weeks should pass after herbicide application before removing dead canes.

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