

Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida, 34470
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MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

AUGUST 2006

2006 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

Thursday, September 21
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

Discussion Topics:

- “Saving your Grass – Pasture Mgt Strategies”
- “Hay Selection – Evaluation of Quality & Value”
- “Equine parasites – Resistance & Control”
- “Equine Supplements – Fact or Fiction”
- “Bits & Bitting – Selection, Use & Fitting”

– Registration is required –
\$25.00 (before September 11)
\$50.00 (on-site or after September 11)

Call Marion County Extension
352-671-8400

Florida Equine Care & Technology II & III

Florida Equine Management Courses

Plan now to attend one of these upcoming
Fall 2006 courses.

Florida Equine Care & Technology II and
Florida Equine Care & Technology III will
begin Monday, September 18th, 2006.

These courses will meet at Central Florida
Community College (CFCC) located on State
Road 200 in Ocala. Classes are scheduled to
meet from 6-9 p.m. for 9 weeks concluding
on November 13th.

Florida Equine Care & Technology II topics
include:

**Principles of Horseshoeing
& hoof care; Horseshoeing Demo & Hoof
Care Lab, Equine Conformation and
selection, Equine Dental care, Equine
nutrition & feeding management,
Veterinary care and first aid, Farm safety
& equipment maintenance and Equine
Behavior.**

Each time Florida Equine Care &
Technology III is offered new topics are
added. Past classes have included: **Horse
trailer selection and safety, Body
Condition Scoring, The importance of
forage based feeding programs, Hay
sampling and analysis, Equine lameness,
Pharmacology, etc.**

To register for one of these courses, contact the
Cont. Ed. Dept at CFCC phone: (352) 873-
5804. For more information, contact Mark
Shuffitt at (352) 671-8400.

Weed Control

Goatweed in Pastures

Goatweed has been a problematic in Florida for many years, primarily in citrus (Figure 1). However, we are now seeing more and more goatweed invade pastures and rangeland. This weed is particularly troublesome, and dense, in areas that have been overgrazed or previously harvested for sod.



Goatweed (*Scoparia dulcis*) is considered an annual weed, but it can also exist as a perennial in south Florida. Plants can grow at least 36 inches tall, with leaves 0.5 to 3 inches long on short petioles. Each goatweed plant is capable of producing thousands of seeds that are approximately 0.25 mm in diameter that can be spread by wind, water, and equipment. In north Florida, this weed flowers and sets seeds many times until frost. In south Florida, it appears that flowering and fruiting can occur year-round.

A study was conducted at the University of Florida in the mid- to late 1980s that investigated goatweed seed germination. The authors found that goatweed seeds do not germinate under dark conditions. This means that there must be at least some light for germination to occur. In fact, as little as 6 hours of light resulted in approximately 18% germination, with maximum germination occurring with 9 to 13 hours of light. Therefore, a thick, healthy sward would limit the amount of goatweed germination in a pasture.

Proper pasture management can go along way in controlling this weed, especially if you consider that this plant can tolerate 2 lb/acre of glyphosate quite well. To date, the only surefire herbicide for goatweed control in pastures is Cimarron at 0.3 oz/acre. However, this is problematic for producers who graze bahiagrass since Cimarron has the potential for severe bahiagrass injury. For bahiagrass, at least 3 pints/acre of WeedMaster will be needed for suppression (not control).

Brent A. Sellers
Extension Agronomist
Range Cattle REC – Ona

How Herbicides Work – GARLON/REMEDY

Garlon and Remedy are herbicides that contain the active ingredient triclopyr. Garlon is registered for use in forestry and industrial sites, while Remedy is used for weed control in pasture and rangelands. There are other registrations for triclopyr in aquatic areas under the trade name Renovate. Regardless of triclopyr formulation or label specifications, this herbicide is active on a wide range of broadleaf weeds, both annual and perennial species.

Triclopyr is classified as a growth regulating herbicide. It is applied postemergence, over-the top of weeds and desirable vegetation. Most often, the desirable vegetation is pasture or rangeland grasses. Triclopyr is readily absorbed through the foliage and diffuses into leaf cells. This herbicide is systemic, meaning it is mobile within plants.

Once inside the cell, triclopyr will do one of the following: 1) Cause herbicide activity, resulting in injury or death of the plant; 2) Be metabolized into non-toxic compounds; 3) Be moved out of the cell and translocated into other areas of the plant.

If triclopyr is absorbed into the leaf, it either causes injury or is metabolized. Movement of triclopyr is dictated by whether the plant is actively growing and moving sugars out of the leaf. Triclopyr is, therefore, termed phloem mobile and tracks with the flow of sugar. If the leaf is exporting sugars, then triclopyr will likely be moved out with the sugars, and subsequently accumulate in those tissues that are the sugar sink.

We do not know exactly how triclopyr affects plants. However, we do know that triclopyr causes uncontrolled growth, resulting in twisting of stems, curling of leaves and sometimes split stems. Some theorize that triclopyr is so similar to the growth regulator auxin that the plant becomes overloaded with this growth hormone and essentially grows itself to death. Other researchers suggest that triclopyr make the cell walls loosen, inducing uncontrollable cell elongation. Further work in this area has also shown excess RNA and DNA biosynthesis, leading to the thought that this stimulates excess cell division.

Regardless of which theory you believe, the bottom line is that some cells of the plant grow more rapidly than others. This results in cells that grow unevenly, with some cells/tissues getting crushed and destroyed in the process. The vascular system is disrupted, blocking water flow and sugar movement; ultimately leading to plant starvation and death.

Triclopyr has limited soil activity and does not persist for a long time in the environment. As mentioned previously, most tolerant plants (grasses) are able to metabolize triclopyr very rapidly into non-toxic compounds.

Greg MacDonald
Weed Scientist
UF Agronomy Department

Is There a Difference Between Milestone and Forefront?

Milestone is a relatively new herbicide that has been heavily advertised in Florida for the past year since it provides excellent control of tropical soda apple (TSA). In just a few months, it replaced Remedy as the most common herbicide used for TSA control. However, UF IFAS research has shown that Milestone is a very specific herbicide that fails to control many common weeds such as dogfennel and blackberry. In light of the limited weed control spectrum of Milestone, Forefront herbicide is also being sold in Florida. These two products hitting the market so close together that it has caused some confusion about which product is best to use.

Forefront is a combination of Milestone + 2,4-D. The 2,4-D in this mixture comes at little or no additional cost and it improves control of dogfennel and several other weeds. Therefore, you will likely see more weeds controlled with Forefront than Milestone for an equivalent price. When spot-treating TSA, either Milestone or Forefront will be effective options. When broadcasting the herbicide to the entire field, Forefront will generally control more weeds than if using Milestone alone.

Jason Ferrell
Extension Weed Specialist
UF Agronomy Department

Tax Exemption for Ag Producers

Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that a new state law that takes effect this month exempts electricity used for agricultural production from the state's sales tax.

"We are grateful that the Legislature enacted this meaningful relief measure, which will assist our agricultural producers in helping them hold down their production costs," Bronson said.

Under terms of the law which took effect July 1, the exemption requires that those requesting it separately meter electricity used in production activities from the electricity used for other purposes. If the electricity is centrally metered and is used for both tax-exempt and taxable purposes, the purchase of the electricity is subject to tax.

The exemption covers virtually all aspects of a farmer or rancher's business operation, including the preparation, planting, cultivating, harvesting and processing of agricultural products. It includes aquaculture, horticulture, floriculture, viticulture, forestry, dairy, livestock, poultry, bees and any or all forms of farm products.

To qualify for the exemption, agricultural producers must furnish their utility provider with an exemption certificate stating that the electricity will be used directly and exclusively for the production or processing of agricultural products. Producers can contact the Florida Department of Revenue for information about the exemption at www.myflorida.com/dor - or call the agency's taxpayer services section at (800) 352-3671 or (850) 488-6800.

"Beef Cattle Management Tips"

August

- Treat for liver flukes as close to August 15th as possible, if they are in your area.
- Cut hay.
- Apply lime for fall and winter crops.
- Harvest Bahiagrass seed.
- Check mineral feeder.
- Update market information and marketing plans.
- Check for army worms, spittlebugs, and mole crickets, and treat if necessary.
- Check dust bags.
- Wean calves and cull cow herd.
- Watch for evidence of abortions.
- Observe animals regularly for signs of disease.
- If cattle grubs were found on cattle last winter or heel flies were observed in the pasture, treat for cattle grubs this month.
- Pregnancy test and cull open heifers from replacement herd.

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 if not already done. 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 have been calfhooed 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.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension

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“The Last Word”

Southern Dictionary

Air-Up

Function: Verb

To pressurize or inflate. *Example: "Air-up your car tires before you go on a long trip."*

A larking

Function: Verbal phrase

Originates from the word "lark" which means to engage in harmless fun or mischief. To go a larking means to play a prank or joke on someone.

Bowed Up

Function: Colloquialism

Marked by impatience or ill humor . Refers to the way a snake bows up his head before he strikes.

Cattywampus

Function: Adjective

Askew. *Example: The storm knocked the boat cattywampus and it started to take on water.*

Egg on

Function: Verbal phrase

To urge to do something. *Example: "He only did it because the crowd egged him on."*

Figure

Function: Verb

To calculate, consider, conclude or decide.
Example: "He hadn't figured on winning the lottery."

Fit to be tied

Function: Colloquialism

Angry.

Fixin'

Function: Verb

To get set : be on the verge *Example: We're fixin' to leave soon.*

Function: Noun

Customary accompaniments. *Example: We had a turkey dinner with all the fixins.*