

Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences

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

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DECEMBER 2006

Florida Horse Owner Management Courses

Marion County Extension will offer two Equine Care and Technology courses, beginning Monday, **January 29th, 2007**. Classes are taught by University of Florida Faculty, practicing veterinarians and local equine industry professionals.

2007 marks the 18th year of this cooperative effort between the University of Florida and CFCC. These courses are endorsed by the Florida Thoroughbred Breeders' and Owners' Association, Farm Managers Club, Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce and the Marion County Equine Advisory Board.

Basic topics include:

- ⇒ Pasture Management, Fertilization, Weed and Toxic Plants
- ⇒ Terminology, Anatomy, and Conformation
- ⇒ Equine Behavior, Horse Handling, Restraint and Safety
- ⇒ Equine Nutrition and Digestion
- ⇒ Broodmare Management, Foaling and Weaning
- ⇒ Herd/Health Mgt. – Vaccinations & Deworming
- ⇒ Managing Stallions, Teasing and Breeding
- ⇒ Veterinary Perspective on Horse Health
- ⇒ Horse Safety & Prevention

Advanced Course – This course is designed to expand the knowledge of experienced horsemen and horsewomen. Classes for this course change each year and have included such topics as:

- ⇒ Parasitology
- ⇒ Advances in Hoof Care Technology
- ⇒ Equine Supplements
- ⇒ Colic – prevention, treatment and management
- ⇒ Management and Manipulation of the Mare's Estrous Cycle
- ⇒ Equine Pharmacology/Immunology
- ⇒ Horse Farm Economics and Record Keeping
- ⇒ Angular Limb Deformities
- ⇒ Government Rules and Regulations
- ⇒ Lameness in Performance Horses
- ⇒ Equine Genetics

Each course consists of nine sessions. Classes will meet at Central Florida Community College beginning Monday night January 29th, 2007, from 6-9 p.m. CFCC is located on SR 200 in Ocala. Cost for each course is \$66.00.

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Thur., December 14th
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Marion County Agriculture Center
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida

TOPICS:
BROODMARE MANAGEMENT
THE FOALING PROCESS
POSTPARTUM EVALUATION
AND
CARE OF NEW BORN FOALS

SPEAKERS:
Ken Breitenbecker, CloverLeaf Farms II
Sandra TenBroeck, UF Dept. Animal Sciences
Chris Sanchez (DVM), UF College of Vet. Med.
Mark Shuffitt, Marion County Extension

For more information call (352) 671-8400.

51st Annual Ocala Graded Bull Sale January 9th, 2007

The Ocala Bull Sale is held each year on the second Tuesday of January at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala. Grading takes place beginning at 8:00 am on the day before the sale. Buyers are welcome to preview the bulls on Monday (all day) and Tuesday (until noon).

All bulls are evaluated on weight, condition, conformation, scrotal circumference and EPD's then assigned a grade from A+ to C. Bulls that do not score a "C" grade or higher are sifted from the sale. Each bull is a guaranteed breeder by the consignor. All bulls will have been semen tested by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days of the sale. A certificate of breeding soundness will accompany all bulls at the sale. If you are in the market for one or more bulls, you don't want to miss this opportunity. The 50th Annual Ocala Bull Sale promises to offer one of the best selections of top quality bulls in the Southeast.

24th Annual Florida Cattlemen's Institute and Allied Trade Show January 18th 2007 Osceola Heritage Park

1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane off HWY 192 East of Kissimmee

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

"Get'em Bred Institute"
**Nutrition, Health and Management for
Reproduction**

AGENDA

Moderator:

Pat Miller, UF/IFAS – Okeechobee Co

AM

8:00 **Trade Show Opens**

8:45 **Welcome**

Jimmy Cheek, UF/IFAS – Vice President for
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Hal Phillips, (DVM); President – Florida
Cattlemens Association

9:00 **Animal Health Needs for Today's' Cow Herd**

Mark Spire, DVM, MS, DACT; Manager –
Technical Services, Schering-Plough Animal
Health

10:00 **Trade Show Break**

10:30 **Understanding the Estrous Cycle and
Maintenance of Pregnancy**

Bill Beal, PhD.; Professor – Animal and Poultry
Science Department, Virginia Tech

11:30 **The State of the State**

Charlie Bronson, Florida Commissioner of
Agriculture

PM

12:00 **Awards**

12:15 **Lunch**

1:00 **Reproduction Requires Adequate Nutrition**

Matt Hersom, PhD.; Assistant Professor – UF
Department of Animal Sciences

1:45 **Managing Pastures for Beef Cows**

Joe Vendramini, PhD.; Forage Agronomist – UF
Range Cattle Research and Education Center,
Ona, FL.

2:30 **Trade Show Break**

3:00 **Wrap-Up**

Bill Beal, PhD.; Professor – Animal and Poultry
Science Department, Virginia Tech

Control of Woody Brush

The coming of winter is often seen as a time to suspend weed control efforts. However, these months are ideal for performing some much needed brush control.

Persimmon, cherry, Chinese tallow and other “weedy” trees can often be found growing along fencerows. A foliar application of glyphosate (5 to 8% solution) made prior to leaf color change can be effective, but total coverage can be difficult and retreatment will often be necessary. Another procedure that is highly effective and more consistent than foliar application is basal treatment. Basal application combines the herbicide with a penetrant oil (not water) and applies the mixture directly to the bark of a standing tree. This results in rapid uptake and loads a great deal of herbicide into the plant. However, it is important to use a basal oil or diesel fuel/herbicide mix; a herbicide/water solution will simply not work.

The basal application technique is for trees that are less than 6-inches in diameter and have smooth bark. It is important that the lower 12 to 18 inches of the stem be treated on all sides with the herbicide/oil mixture. Adequate coverage is essential, since treating only one side of the stem will result in controlling only half of the tree. Basal applications can be made any time of the year, but are most effective during the dormant season when leaves are not present. It must be noted that basal applications will not provide rapid control. Herbicide injury is often not observed for several weeks after treatment and total control may require several months. Additionally, basal treatment is not effective on older trees with thick bark. For older trees, other application techniques should be employed.

Herbicides that work best for basal application are triclopyr ester (Remedy, Garlon 4, Tahoe 4) and Chopper. A triclopyr product should be mixed with basal oil to form a 25% solution (1 quart of herbicide in 3 quarts of oil). This product is highly effective on most all woody brush, including Chinese privet. Chopper is a more potent herbicide and only requires the addition of 8 to 12 oz of herbicide per gallon of basal oil.

For more information on brush control, please reference *Herbicide Application Techniques for Woody Plant Control*, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG245>

Jason A. Ferrell
Weed Specialist
UF/IFAS Extension

Beef Cattle Management Tips

DECEMBER

- ⇒ Check mineral feeder
- ⇒ Begin grazing small grain pastures, if ready
- ⇒ Check for external parasites and treat if necessary
- ⇒ Deworm cows and heifers prior to winter feeding season
- ⇒ Check cows regularly for calving difficulties
- ⇒ Rotate calving pasture to prevent diseases
- ⇒ Observe calves for signs of scours
- ⇒ Investigate health of bulls **before** you buy
- ⇒ Check replacement heifers to be sure they will be ready to breed 3-4 weeks prior to the main cow herd
- ⇒ Complete review of management plan and update for next year.

JANUARY

- ⇒ Buy only performance tested bulls with superior records.
- ⇒ **Attend Ocala Bull Sale January 9th, 2007**
- ⇒ Apply lime for summer crops.
- ⇒ Check for lice/treat if necessary.
- ⇒ Control weeds in cool season pasture.
- ⇒ Begin grazing winter pastures when approx. 6” high. Rye should be 12”-18” high.
- ⇒ Check and fill mineral feeders.
- ⇒ Put bulls out for October breeding season.
- ⇒ Make breeding herd lists for single sire herds.
- ⇒ Observe cows: record heat, breeding abnormalities, discharges, abortions, retained placentas, difficult calvings, etc.
- ⇒ Observe cows for calving difficulties.
- ⇒ Observe calves for signs of scours.
- ⇒ Make sure bulls have adequate nutrition; so they will be in good condition for the breeding season.
- ⇒ Discuss herd health with your veterinarian and outline a program for the year.
- ⇒ Watch for grass tetany on winter pastures.
- ⇒ Increase magnesium levels in mineral mixes if grass tetany has been a previous problem.
- ⇒ Vaccinate cows and heifers against vibriosis and leptospirosis prior to the breeding season.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension Service

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THE RUNAWAYS

Mark Shuffitt

It happened the night after Thanksgiving Day
Our two dogs escaped, they just ran away.
From boredom or spite, No one really knows
Suppose I was thinking, "That's the way that it goes."

Ya love 'em and train 'em and make sure their fed
You even give extra, sometimes your own bed.
And just when you think you've about got 'em tuned
They leave in the night, by the light of the moon.

They dug out, those knot-heads, right under the fence
And took off; hard, like they'd lost all their sense.
"The dogs have run off!" was the children's refrain.
"Would they be back?", no one could explain.

Their newfound freedom brought feelings of rapture
As they carous'd 'round the county's cow pastures.
We worried and fretted and looked all around
But the dogs were explorin', didn't want to be found.

We prayed for three days, and told all our neighbors.
We even informed the Waffle House waiters.
We posted the flyers everywhere we could think.
We even put one on the ATM, at the bank.
Then Monday at five, we got the word.
A rancher'd seen 'em, out runnin' his herd.
He got our number from the Help Wanted sign
We had put up at the Kwik King, Lotto line.

This man's seen our dogs! was my wife's inflection,
As she sent me out and was screaming directions.
I flew out the driveway, to the end of our road
And freaked out our neighbors by the way that I drove.

When me and the kids arrived, where he said
We couldn't see much, so we listened instead.
We whistled and hollered and called 'em by name
But after two hours, neither one came.

We prayed and prayed and we searched for their track.
Those dogs were still ours and we wanted 'em back.
So, the next day I went to the shelter to see,
If they had my dogs or knew where they'd be.

The pound didn't have 'em but knew right away,
To show me a message they'd received just that day.
"Found 2 male black labs" that like to roam,
There're at my house and they want to go home.