UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA Cooperative Extension Service

Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences

Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida, 34470
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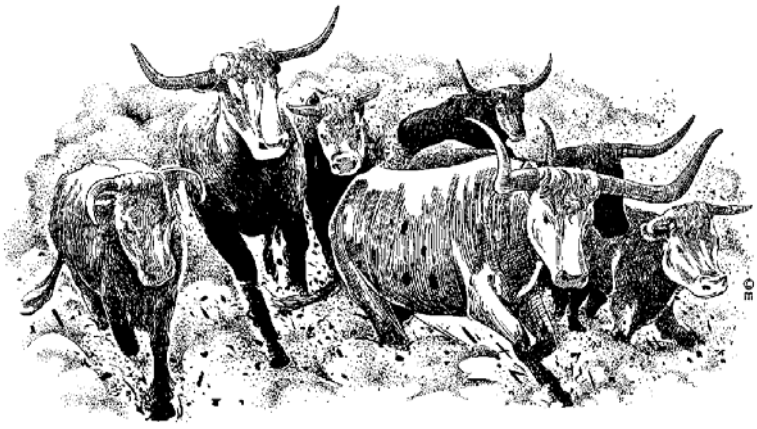

Vol. 12, No. 3 MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS FEBRUARY 2006

Equine Forums at Marion County Ag Center

Foaling Workshop II

February 7th, 2006
8:30 am – Noon

Broodmare Nutrition:
"Feeding the Pregnant Mare & Foal"

Knowing the Risks:
"Foaling & Neonatal Illnesses"

New Updates & Guidelines:
"Broodmare & Foal Vaccinations"

Speakers:
Kelly Spearman, UF Dept. of Animal Sciences
Dana Zimmel, DVM; UF/IFAS Extension Vet.
Mark Shuffitt, Marion County Extension

Equine Health Care

February 9th, 2006
7:00 – 9:00 pm

"New Imagaing Modalities to Evaluate Lameness"
Alison Morton, DVM, MS, DACVS
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

"Conditions of the Upper Airway that affect Performance and Sales"
David Freeman, MVB, PhD, DACVS
University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

NO CHARGE
Reservations are required for planning.
Call Helen at 671-8400.

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District

Presents:

2nd Annual Equine Manure Composting Seminar

March 2, 2006
6:00 – 9:00 pm

Marion County Ag Center

Speakers will cover the composting process, bin construction and the economics of composting.

The event starts at 6:00 pm with vendor displays & dinner.

Program begins at 7:00 pm

FREE DINNER (first 100)
DOOR PRIZES!
For more information call 352-622-3971 ext. #3

Weed Management In Pastures

J.A. Ferrell, B. A. Sellers, G. E. MacDonald, B. J. Brecke, and J. J. Mullahey

Effective weed control begins with good pasture or rangeland management. Weeds are seldom a serious problem in a well-managed, vigorously growing grass. Good management begins with proper choice of the forage species and variety, adequate fertility and soil pH, proper grazing management, and control of other pests such as insects, diseases, and nematodes. If the grass dies or is not growing well, there is usually some weed which will tolerate the condition which caused the grass not to grow and that weed will become established. Once a weed is established, mechanical or chemical methods are usually employed to control the weeds however, unless the basic management problem is corrected the grass will not regrow in the area and weeds will continue to infest the area.

Mechanical Control

Mowing is one of the most often used methods of weed control in pastures. Mowing improves the appearance of a pasture and if properly timed will prevent weeds from producing seed; however, its effectiveness in controlling weeds depends on several factors. The major consideration is the type of weed present. Mowing is generally more effective on broadleaf weeds than grasses and more effective on annual than perennial weeds. Knowledge of the weed and its life cycle will generally indicate how effective mowing will be. Carefully consider the amount of energy required and anticipated effectiveness before mowing, because other methods may be more energy efficient. Another factor to consider prior to mowing is whether the plant can regenerate vegetatively. Often when an area is mowed, it will spread weeds because they can form new plants from the cut vegetative plant parts. An example of this is prickly pear.

Sanitation

In addition to controlling weeds in a pasture, efforts should be taken to prevent weeds from reinfesting the pasture. Knowledge of how weeds are dispersed is important.

Weeds may be dispersed by wind, carried by water, distributed in planting seed, in feed or hay, carried by animals including man, or moved by machinery. Animals grazing in a weed infested pasture and then allowed to move directly to a clean pasture may move weed seed both internally and externally.

One of the most common problems is failure to control weeds in ditch banks, fence rows, and farm roads. These weeds produce seed and/or vegetative growth which re-infests the pastures. Fence rows are also a common area where poisonous plants are left uncontrolled. Plants such as crotalaria, black nightshade, and lantana are commonly found poisonous plants in Florida. Animals won't usually choose to graze most poisonous plants, however, if grass is limited in pastures due to poor growing conditions or overstocking a pasture, they may try them. It should also be remembered that some poisonous plants may become more palatable following herbicide application and then be more readily grazed. Therefore, if poisonous plants are present in fence rows and pastures are in short supply, care should be taken and cattle watched closely. When treating fence rows it is often advisable to apply a foliar applied herbicide to kill the existing vegetation along with a soil applied residual herbicide to prevent weeds from regrowing in the fence row.

Chemical Control

The herbicide and application rates are extremely important in chemical weed control. Rates too low will not give adequate weed control and rates too high may injure the forage and result in only partial control of perennial weeds. In addition, time of application is

important with herbicides. Preemergence applications are made before the weeds germinate and emerge; therefore, it is obvious that knowledge of the life cycle of the weed becomes important. For example, a herbicide applied in October for crabgrass (a summer annual which germinates in early spring) would be wasted. One of the most important factors in choosing a herbicide is proper weed identification. See http://weedext.ifas.ufl.edu for weed pictures. After identifying the weed, choose the herbicide recommended for the particular weed.

Postemergence Applications

Postemergence applications are made after the weeds have emerged. Most effective applications are made when the weeds have recently germinated and are small. For perennial weeds (regrowing from storage organs) it is often advisable to allow them to grow for a short period of time before spraying. This allows a sufficient leaf surface for coverage and insures that the perennial is manufacturing food (through photosynthesis) and translocating it along with the herbicide back to the roots (which is the part of the plant you must kill).

Herbicides may be applied broadcast over the entire pasture or may be applied as spot treatments to localized infestations of weeds. The lower cost and energy saved by spot treatment makes this a desirable method in many situations.

Liming Pastures

January and February may be an opportune time to lime pastures, if soil testing indicates that lime is needed. This is especially true for those areas that are to be renovated and replanted in the spring or summer since it provides an opportunity for the lime to be incorporated. Lime should be incorporated into the soil whenever possible since lime reacts with the soil with which it contacts. Surface applied lime neutralizes the soil acidity of the surface soil, but has little immediate effect on the soil pH below the top inch or so. Tropical grasses in general do not require a high pH. Bahiagrass grows well at a pH of 5.0 to 5.5. The cool season legumes and grasses do require a higher pH and where these are grown, liming may be needed more frequently than is required on our permanent grass pastures. Also, bermudagrass hay fields where high rates of nitrogen fertilizer are applied may require more frequent liming. Do not apply lime to pastures unless it is needed as indicated by soil testing.

Be aware that applying lime to a pasture sod forms a thin layer of soil at the surface that has a high pH. The high pH at the soil surface may bring about volatilization of ammonia when ammonium fertilizers, such as urea-ammonium nitrate solutions, come in contact with it. Therefore, do not put out lime and nitrogen at the same time. For late winter- spring applications, apply the nitrogen first and allow enough time for a rain to move it into the soil before applying lime.

Beef Cattle Management Tips

FEBRUARY

- Top dress winter forages, if necessary
- Check and fill mineral feeders
- Put bulls out with breeding herd
- Work Calves:
    1. Identify
    2. Implant with growth stimulant
    3. Vaccinate
- Provide adequate nutrition to lactating cows
- Check calves for signs of respiratory disease
- Cull cows that did not calve
- Check for lice, treat if necessary

MARCH

- Prepare land for summer crops.
- Begin grazing warm season permanent pastures.
- Check and fill mineral feeder.
- Observe bulls for condition and success. Rotate and rest bulls as necessary.
- Deworm cows as needed.
- Observe calf health and provide adequate nutrition for “good” weight gains.
- Hang forced-use dust bags by April 1st for external parasite control or use insecticide impregnated ear tags.
- Identify, vaccinate, implant and work late calves.
- Put bulls out by March 1st for calving season to start December 9th.
- Remove bulls March 22nd to end calving season January 1st.

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension Service

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2006 Southeastern Youth Fair

February 18 – 23

and

High School Rodeo

February 25 & 26

One of Florida's oldest and largest Youth Fairs!
Over 1,000 4h & FFA exhibitors will compete

Come out to our Market Animal Shows and Auctions

Lamb Show
Sat., Feb., 18th – 4:00 pm
Lamb sale
Sat., Feb., 18th – 7:00 pm

Steer show
Mon., Feb., 20th – 7:00 pm
Steer sale
Tues., Feb., 21st – 7:00 pm

swine show
Wed., Feb., 22nd – 7:00 pm
swine sale
Thur., Feb., 23rd – 6:30 pm

Annual BBQ Dinners only $6
BEEF Dinner: 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Tuesday, Feb., 21st
PORK Dinner: 4:00 – 6:00 pm; Thursday, Feb., 23rd

For more information call 352-629-1255
Check out our website www.seyf.com for a complete list of all events and activities