

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



Vol. 12, No. 8

MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

SEPT. 2006

2006 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

The Central Florida Livestock Agents Group would like to invite you to the 2006 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show on September 21st, 2006 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 2006 educational program is *"Managing Florida Horses 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/announcements.html>

The Trade Show will open at 8:00 am and the seminars will begin at 8:45 am. Highlights of the educational program include the following topics and speakers: **"University of Florida Mobile Equine Diagnostic Services (MEDS)"** – Michael Porter, DVM.; UF College of Veterinary Medicine; **"Saving Your Grass – Grazing Management Strategies for Horse Pasture"** – Mark Shuffitt, UF/IFAS Marion Co Extension; **"Equine Parasites, Resistance & Control"** – Charlie Courtney, DVM, UF College of Veterinary Medicine; **"Equine Supplements – What Doesn't Work, What Does and When to Use"** – Amy Gill, PhD., Equine Nutritionist; **"Florida Equine Waste Management/BMP's"** – Sandra TenBroeck, Equine Specialist, University of Florida; **"Selecting, Evaluating & Feeding Horse Hay"** – Lori Warren, PhD., Equine Nutritionist, University of Florida; **"Bits and Biting"** – Ed Johnson, Equine Extension Specialist, University of Florida.

Register Now To Win \$500 Gift Certificate! Each paid participant registration to the 2006 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 21st, 2006. 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 the *Tack Shack Too*.

Registration forms are available on-line at <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/announcements.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.

Early registration is \$25.00 if postmarked on or before September 11th, 2006. Student Registration is \$15.00 (student ID required). On-site registration or Late Registration (postmarked after September 11th, 2006) is \$50.00.

Make check or money order payable to:

Marion County Extension

Send to:

Marion County Extension Service

Attn: Mark Shuffitt

2232 NE Jacksonville Road

Ocala, FL 34470-3615

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

Tropical Soda Apple Control: Sorting Through the Options

J. A. Ferrell, B. Sellers, and J. J. Mullahey

Tropical soda apple (TSA) has been a significant weed problem in Florida for almost two decades. For many years, however, herbicide recommendations were relatively simple. Remedy herbicide was the only product labeled for TSA and it was the only product recommended by IFAS. But the past 3 years has seen a dramatic increase in the number of herbicides available for TSA control. Currently, Forefront, Milestone, Pasturegard, and Remedy are available, each of which can be used to control TSA. So, where do we go from here? Which product is best and which one should be used?

All of these herbicides were developed for a specific reason and each has strengths and weaknesses. As is common in all areas of pest management, there is not one product that solves every problem. Therefore, it is important to understand the benefits of these herbicides so they can be used to achieve their maximum effectiveness. To do this, we have developed a table of the strengths and weakness of each herbicide.

We would suggest that Milestone is an excellent choice for pastures where TSA is the dominant species and few other weeds are present. However, if TSA is the target species, but a variety of other weeds are present (dogfennel <30" tall, coffeeweeds, etc.), Forefront will provide greater control of these species than Milestone, while also being highly effective on TSA. If a wide variety of annual and perennial weeds are present and TSA is a significant problem, Remedy is likely the best option. Remedy will not be expected to give season-long control of TSA, but it will alleviate many of the other weed problems and allow you to specifically target TSA with Milestone or Forefront at a later time, if needed. In pastures that are dominated by annual and perennial weeds, with a few small interspersed TSA plants, Pasturegard would be an excellent choice. Pasturegard is not as effective on large TSA as the other products, but it will likely be the most effective herbicide for cleaning up large weedy areas with multiple species.

As stated previously, there is no single "best option" for all scenarios. However, we now have many different options for pasture weed management and are able to achieve unprecedented levels of TSA control. By knowing these strengths and weaknesses of these herbicides, the proper herbicide can be selected to maximize weed control per dollar spent.

Trade name	Common name	\$/A ¹	Strengths	Weaknesses
Milestone 5 - 7 fl oz/A	Aminopyralid	12-22	Low use rate; highly effective on TSA of all sizes; controls existing plants and germinating seedlings; excellent choice for spot-spraying TSA.	Poor control of dogfennel and many other common weeds; does not control woody brush or blackberry.
Forefront 2 - 2.6 pt/A	Aminopyralid + 2,4-D	14-22	Highly effective on TSA of all sizes; controls existing plants and germinating seedlings; controls a greater variety of small seasonal weeds than Milestone, particularly dogfennel.	Does not control woody brush or blackberry; less effective on large dogfennel and other difficult-to-manage weeds than Remedy or Pasturegard.
Remedy 2 pt/A	Triclopyr	18-22	Broad spectrum control of many weed species; effective on woody brush; excellent for TSA in mixture with other hard to manage weeds.	Less effective on mature TSA; does not control germinating seedlings; control of TSA is best if plants are mowed prior to application.
Pasturegard 3 - 4 pt/A	Triclopyr + fluroxypyr	18-24	Broad spectrum control of many weed species; effective on woody brush.	Less effective on TSA of all sizes; does not control germinating seedlings.

¹These are approximate prices. These prices are subject to change relative to quantity of herbicide purchased, corporate promotions, region of the state, and many other factors.

“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 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 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 from a bunk 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.

November

- Have soils tested.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use mineral with high level of magnesium if grass tetany has been a problem in the past.
- Check for external parasites and treat if needed.
- Maintain adequate nutrient level for cow herd.
- Calve in well-drained pastures.
- Survey pastures for poisonous plants.
- Start summarizing your annual records, both production and financial-then you will have time to make adjustments for tax purposes.
- Re-evaluate winter feeding program and feed supplies.
- Get breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail.
- Implement bull conditioning program.

Where are all of these weeds coming from?

Weed seed banks

Despite the hard work of growers, continuing research by weeds scientists, and improvements in application technologies, weeds are a persistent problem for most growers. Why is it that a grower can achieve near perfect weed control one season, yet have to battle the same weed problem the next? It turns out that the old adage **“One year’s seeding- seven years’ weeding”** is accurate. When weed seeds fall to the ground, they become part of a weed seed bank in the soil and can cause weedy conditions for many years.

Even in the cleanest fields it is likely that a few weeds will escape control and produce seed. Depending on the species, a single plant can produce anywhere from a few to thousands of seeds. It has been estimated that less than 10% of the viable weed seeds produced each year germinate. The rest accumulate on the surface and in the soil to form the weed seed bank. The total number of seeds in agricultural soils can be enormous. Most research estimates the number to be between 3,000,000 and 435,000,000 seeds per acre.

Although a large number of the buried seeds are lost to decay, predation, and physical damage, some species can remain viable for decades. Some weed seeds enter a state of dormancy, a relatively inactive or resting condition, that slows down or stops weed seed germination. This allows them to escape or avoid exposure to control practices that target emerging and emerged weed seedlings.

Preventing weed seed development may not have an immediate impact, but will help reduce soil seed banks in the long term. As with other weed management strategies an integrated approach is best. Chemical and mechanical weed control practices should be timed to prevent seed development and dispersal. Keeping canals and field edges clean can also help reduce seed rain. In Florida, many weeds can grow and produce seed year round, thus it is critical to maintain weed control during fallow periods. Cleaning cultivation and harvest equipment between fields can also prevent moving seeds from one location to another.

Curtis Rainbolt
Assistant Professor, PhD.
Weed Science
Belle Glade REC

Florida Equine Management

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

John Mark Shuffitt
Livestock Agent III
Marion County Extension

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity-Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact the Extension Service one-week in advance of program for assistance