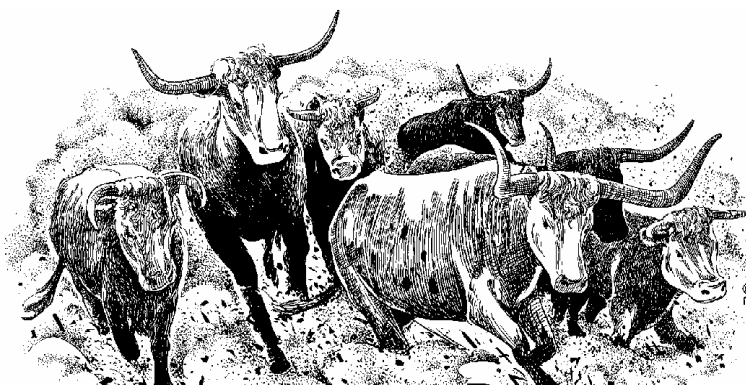


Marion County Extension Service
2232 NE Jacksonville Road
Ocala, Florida, 34470
(352) 671-8400



Vol. 14, No. 5

MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

AUGUST 2008

2008 Florida Equine Institute & Allied Trade Show

Thursday, September 18
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:

“Horse Farm Weed Control”

“Care and Management of Older Horses”

“Colic – What, Why, How”

“Equine Gastric Ulcers”

“Current Concepts for Treating Equine Laminitis”

“Confusion About Carbs in the Equine Diet”

– Registration is required –
\$25.00 (before September 5th)
\$50.00 (on-site or after September 5th)

Call Marion County Extension
352-671-8400

Florida Equine Management Courses

Plan now to attend one of these upcoming
Fall 2008 courses:

Florida Equine Management II is
scheduled for Monday nights beginning
September 22nd (6 – 9 pm) for 9 weeks at
Central Florida Community College (\$75).

Topics include: Principles of
Horseshoeing & Hoof Care; Demo & Hoof
Care Lab; Equine Conformation and
Selection; Equine Dental Care; Feeding
Management; Veterinary Care and First-
Aid; Equine Behavior; Farm Safety and
Equipment Maintenance.

Advanced Equine Nutrition will meet
Monday nights (6 – 8 pm); 4 weeks,
September 22 through October 13, 2008 at
the Marion County Agriculture Center (\$55).

Topics Include: Feeding to Prevent
Digestive Upsets, Confusion About Carbs,
Equine Supplements, Feed Tag Information
and Determining Feed Value.

Managing Florida Horse Pastures is
scheduled for Monday nights beginning
October 20th (6 – 8 pm) for 4 weeks at
Central Florida Community College (\$55).

Topics include: Soil Sampling,
Fertilization, Horse Farm Weed Control,
Toxic Weeds.

To register for courses to be held at CFCC,
contact the Cont. Ed. Dept at: (352) 873-5804
or 854-2322 ext 1496.

To register for Advanced Equine Nutrition,
contact the Ag Center at (352) 671-8400.

Equine
Management
Courses

Is \$10/gal Glyphosate Gone Forever?

The Roundup brand of glyphosate was a standard for weed control for many years. However, the patent for glyphosate expired approximately 10 years ago and numerous manufactures began to distribute branded glyphosate products.

Almost overnight the price of glyphosate fell to levels as low as \$10/gal. But, in 2008 the price of all glyphosate products rose sharply with the cheapest brands now costing near \$30/gal.

This brings two questions:

Why did prices increase so quickly?

Will the prices ever return to \$10?

The key reason for the dramatic increase in glyphosate price was a shortage in global glyphosate supply. This shortage was caused by several reasons including increased Roundup Ready corn acreage in the Midwest, acceptance of Roundup Ready technology in Brazil, and closure of glyphosate manufacturing plants in China. Of all the glyphosate sold, there is only one production facility operating in the United States.

Conversely, China recently had as many as 13 glyphosate production facilities. This means that a vast majority of the “post-patent” glyphosate brands were manufactured in China. The huge glyphosate production capacity of China was due, in part, to government programs. The Chinese government will subsidize certain industries as a means of ensuring a working public. For many years, factories that produced glyphosate received these subsidies. These economic incentives encouraged overproduction of glyphosate and further allowed low sales prices.

In 2007, the Chinese government chose to stop supporting the production of glyphosate. This led to a closure of several production facilities in China while the others dramatically increased price of future production. So, the radical increase in glyphosate price was due to global shortage caused by increased glyphosate use and decreased production capacity.

Will glyphosate cost ever return to \$10 per gallon? It is my prediction that we are likely to never see glyphosate sold this cheaply again. The demand for glyphosate is higher now than ever and I do not foresee this changing in the near future. Likewise, the government influenced over-production of glyphosate will likely not occur again either. For now, it seems as if we must prepare to pay higher prices for glyphosate.

Dr. Jason Ferrell

UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist

Spiny Amaranth (Spiny Pigweed) Control in Pastures

Spiny amaranth (*Amaranthus spinosus*), also known as spiny pigweed, is very common throughout Florida. This summer annual species is often observed in pastures, particularly in bare ground areas (near feeding pens and water troughs). This weed seems to thrive in well-worn, highly compacted areas where stockings rates are high and desirable grasses are few. If left unchecked, spiny amaranth can eventually take over entire pastures, as seen in the photo below.

Spiny amaranth is particularly troublesome because sharp spines proliferate on the stem. This greatly deters grazing around the plant as animals avoid the sharp spines. Also, this weed is an abundant seed producer with well over 100,000 seeds per plant produced each year. Additionally, these seeds germinate throughout the warm summer months and each rainfall event results in another flush of spiny amaranth plants.

Because spiny amaranth seed germinates so frequently, any control measure will generally only last a few weeks before a new flush of seedlings overtake the area once again.

The Pasture Weed Control Program at University of Florida has tested a couple of herbicides to determine if herbicides that provide soil residual activity can be used to provide long-term control of spiny amaranth. Conversely, if residual control can not be obtained, then low-cost options were tested to fit multiple applications during each season.

The herbicides Telar (chlorsulfuron), Milestone and Forefront (both possessing aminopyralid as the active ingredient) have been shown to provide extensive residual control of some weeds. They were chosen to test control of spiny amaranth for an extended period of time since; in addition, these herbicides do not possess any grazing restrictions for beef or dairy animals.

It was observed that Telar and Milestone provided excellent spiny amaranth control at 1 month after treatment (Table 1), but by 3 months, multiple seedlings had germinated and had resumed growth in the treated area. Therefore, neither of these herbicides provided sufficient residual control.

Low rates of Forefront and Telar were effective on spiny amaranth (Table 2). For only a few dollars per acre, Telar can be used to manage this weed. Because long-term control will not be obtained, 2 or 3 applications per season should effectively manage spiny amaranth for the entire season.

Although Telar is very effective on spiny amaranth, there are only few other weeds that will control. Other weeds like ragweed, coffeeweed, Mexican tea (Jerusalem oak), tropical soda apple, and thistle will not

be controlled with Telar. However, Forefront (depending on the application rate) proved to be excellent in controlling each of these weeds. In summary, Telar is ideal for areas where spiny amaranth dominates but Forefront would be a better choice for areas that contain a mixture of different weeds.

Table 1
Control of spiny amaranth with Telar and Milestone

Herbicide	Rate	<u>Spiny amaranth control (%)</u>		\$/A
		1 MAT ₁	3 MAT	
Telar	0.5 oz/A	93	50	\$10
Telar	0.75 oz/A	95	60	\$15
Milestone	7.0 fl. oz/A	90	50	\$20

₁ Data collected at 1 and 3 “months after treatment” (MAT)

Table 2
Control of spiny amaranth with Telar and Forefront

Herbicide	Rate	<u>Spiny amaranth control (%)</u>	\$/A
		1 MAT ₁	
Telar	0.5 oz/A	95	\$10
Telar	0.3 oz/A	95	\$7
Telar	0.1 oz/A	94	\$3
Forefront	2 pt/A	91	\$15
Forefront	1.5 pt/A	89	\$11

₁ Data collected at 1 “month after treatment” (MAT).

Jason Ferrell
UF/IFAS Extension Weed Specialist

Dr. Brent Sellers, Extension Weed Scientist
Range Cattle REC, Ona

CFLAG Wildlife Management Seminar September 5, 2008

Citrus County Cattlemen’s Building
Floral City, FL

8:30 - Noon

- Identifying Important Native Quail Plants
- Bobwhite Basics
- Deer Management and Field Plant ID
- Turkey Management and Field Plant ID
- Results of Wildlife Survey
- Planting Wildlife Food Plots
- Tour of Rooks Ranch Native Plant Species, Dove Fields, and Food Plots

Lunch Provided

RSVP by August 22nd Call 352-343-4101 to register.

“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 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 – 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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“You Know You’re A Floridian If . . .”

- Socks are only for bowling.
 - You never use an umbrella because you know the rain will be over in five minutes.
 - A good parking place has nothing to do with distance from the store, but everything to do with shade.
 - Your winter coat is made of denim.
 - You can tell the difference between fire ant bites and mosquito bites.
 - You're younger than thirty but some of your friends are over 65.
 - Anything under 70 degrees is chilly.
 - You've driven through Yeehaw Junction.
 - You dread love bug season.
 - You are on a first name basis with the Hurricane list. They aren't Hurricane Charley or Hurricane Frances. You know them as Andrew, Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.
 - You know what a snowbird is and when they'll leave.
 - You think a six-foot alligator is actually pretty average.
- 'Down South' means Key West.
 - Flip-flops are everyday wear. Shoes are for business meetings and church, but you HAVE worn flip flops to church before.
 - You have a drawer full of bathing suits, and one sweatshirt.
 - You get annoyed at the tourists who feed seagulls.
 - A mountain is any hill 100 feet above sea level.
 - You know the four seasons really are: hurricane season, love bug season, tourist season and summer.
 - You've hosted a hurricane party.
 - You can pronounce Okeechobee, Kissimmee, Withlacoochee and Micanopy.
 - You understand why it's better to have a friend with a boat, than have a boat yourself.
 - You were 25 when you first met someone who couldn't swim.
 - You've worn shorts and used the A/C on Christmas and New Year's.