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MARION COUNTY LIVESTOCK NEWS

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2009 Florida Equine Institute Video Presentations

More than 250 horse owners and managers from central Florida attended this year's 10th Annual Florida Equine Institute and Allied Trade Show held at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion. This UF/Marion County Cooperative Extension program is designed to provide Florida horsemen and horsewomen with current equine management information and a "working" trade show.

The Equine Institute focuses on horse production as it relates to racing, sport and competitive events as well as recreational horses. This UF/IFAS Marion County Extension event featured SEC Land-Grant guest speakers Jay Ferrell, PhD. and Amanda House, DVM both from the University of Florida; Ray Kaplan, DVM, University of Georgia and Clint Depew, PhD., Louisiana State University.

Highlights of the educational program "Foundations for Florida Horses" included: *Weed ID/Control and Herbicide Selection*, *These Ain't Your Father's Parasites: Dewormer resistance and new strategies for parasite control* and *The "Unwanted" Horse in the US: An Overview of the issue*. Additionally, nationally recognized equine specialist Clint Depew, PhD.; Professor Emeritus, Louisiana State University presented two live animal demonstrations. These live horse demonstrations allow us to illustrate training techniques that owners and trainers can take home and use.

For ten years, we have published printed proceedings with each speaker's presentation. Program participants find it beneficial to have these papers on hand for future reference. Additionally, in 2008 we began taking videos of each presentation, including the live animal demonstrations and have made them

available along with the printed proceedings on-line at <http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu>. Use the following links for the 2009 Equine Institute Proceedings printed and video information.

Weed ID/Control and Herbicide Selection - Jay Ferrell

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine09_Ferrell_WeedControl/index.html (video)

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2009EquineInst/Ferrell.pdf> (72 KB pdf)

These Ain't Your Father's Parasites: Dewormer Resistance and New Strategies for Parasite Control in Horses – Ray Kaplan, DVM

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine09_Kaplan_Parasites/index.html (video)

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2009EquineInst/Kaplan1.pdf> (59 KB pdf)

Recommendations for Effective Parasite Control in Horses – Ray Kaplan, DVM

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine09_Kaplan_WormControl/index.html (video)

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2009EquineInst/Kaplan2.pdf> (102 KB pdf)

The "Unwanted" Horse in the US: An Overview of the issue – Amanda House, DVM

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine09_House_UnwantedHorse/index.html (video)

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2009EquineInst/House.pdf> (29 KB pdf)

Refining Rhythm, Improving Responsiveness and Increasing Expectations – Clint Depew

http://training.ifas.ufl.edu/Equine09_Depew_Riding2/index.htm (video)

<http://cflag.ifas.ufl.edu/documents/2009EquineInst/Depew2.pdf> (12 KB pdf)

Ryegrass



Species:	Ryegrass
Scientific Name:	<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>
Cultivars:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early maturity: Attain, Bulldog/Grazer, Ed, Flying A, Oregro DH-3, TAMBO, Verdure and Gulf (susceptible to rust).• Late maturity: Marshall, Jumbo, Ed and Rio TAMTBO.• Other include: Prine, Surrey II, Passeral plus, Brigadier, Fantastic, Graze-N-Gro, King, Beefbuilder III.
Growth Habit:	2-4 feet tall, bunchgrass, auricles present, plant base often purplish. 'Shiny' leaves.
Life Cycle:	Annual
Origin:	Europe
Production Season:	February through all of May (except in south Florida, where growing season is shorter).
Nutritive Value:	High quality. High crude protein; high digestibility.
Use:	Grazing, hay, silage

Adaptation

Soil:	Sandy-loam, clay-loam.
pH:	5.5-7.5
Rainfall:	35 inches (winter-spring period). Requires moisture. Not recommended for sites with low moisture retention.
Temperature:	Grows during cool season. Tolerates 12°F (minimum).

Management

Planting Date:	October 1 - November 15
Planting Depth:	<0.25 inch
Seeding Rate:	20 to 30 lb/acre
Seed Cost:	Gulf (\$0.31/lb; \$6 to 9/acre) Passerel (\$0.56/lb; \$14 to 17/acre)
Fertilization:	60-80 lb N/acre early in January.
Production:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4000 to 7000 lb/acre (less than 4,000 lb/acre may be considered a failure crop).• Well managed and all other conditions favorable you can obtain three harvests (mid February, late March, and mid April).• Forage is too valuable to scarify for seed production.

Notes

- Due to later maturity than winter small grains, it is important to keep warm-season perennials grazed short to prevent competition when overseeding into these permanent pastures.
- Susceptible to leaf and glume 'blotch' (*Septoria* spp.) and leafspot '*Bipolaris*' (formerly *Helminthosporium* spp.) both cause leaf lesions associated to heavy N fertilization, wet, windy, and warm weather 60 to 77 F, especially in Brevard, Osceola, Polk, Pasco counties and northward.



Poisonous Plant Watch

There are dozens of poisonous plants that infest pastures. Most of these species are native to Florida and they are present for a majority of the grazing season.



Showy Crotalaria photo: UF/IFAS

However, late summer and early fall is one of the seasons when animal poisoning most often occurs, the other being late winter and early spring when cattle are hungry and there is no forage available yet.

The most common poisonous plants in pastures in the fall are sicklepod, coffee senna and showy crotalaria. One reason for this is animals rarely browse these species when grass is abundant and succulent. But in the fall, bahiagrass leaf production has greatly slowed while seedhead production dominates. With the decline in available forage, animals will begin to experiment on the other plants present. Additionally, toxins most commonly accumulate in seeds with a much lower concentration in the leaves and stems. It is possible that some animals browse these poisonous plants all season with minimal ill effect. However, with the days becoming shorter and seed production proliferating, casual browsing of seed pods can quickly impact animal health.

As we draw nearer to frost, the presence of these poisonous plants becomes even more important. The coffee weeds, for example, are much more tolerant to frost than bahiagrass. A light frost can turn bahiagrass totally brown while these plants remain unaffected.

This rapid and dramatic reduction in available forage can turn the attention of almost any animal onto poisonous plants.

If coffeeweeds, crotalarias and other known poisonous species are present in your pastures, develop a management plan for them now. This can consist of spraying GrazonNext or simply mowing. If you suspect animal poisoning, the most common signs are dark urine, listlessness and weight loss. If these signs are present, contact a veterinarian without delay.



Sicklepod

photo: Les Harrison



Coffee Senna

photo: UF/IFAS

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This is your FINAL regular mail edition of
Marion County Livestock News

If you would like to receive this newsletter as an email,
Contact Cindy @ 671-8400
or email your request to
Cynthia.Steinke@marioncountyfl.org
Include Marion County Livestock News in the subject
line of your request.

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The Foundation for The Gator Nation
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“Beef Cattle Management Tips”

November

- Have soils tested.
- Observe cows daily to detect calving difficulty.
- Use high magnesium mineral 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.
- Begin 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.
- Perform breeding soundness exams on bull battery so you have time to find replacements if some fail.
- Implement bull conditioning program.

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 before the main cow herd.
- Complete review of management plan and update for next year.