



NORTHEAST FLORIDA BEEF & FORAGE GROUP



March 10, 2006

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Dear Producers,

Spring is coming up fast and we are gearing up for some excellent workshops for you. Our newsletter this month contains some important articles on parasite challenges, summer annual forages, small ruminant production, and weed control. It is our hope that this newsletter will help provide answers and resources to

situations that affect your livestock enterprise. If you have any questions about the articles in this quarter's newsletter, or any other questions, please feel free to contact your local extension agent.

I also want to personally invite you to several workshops we have scheduled. The first will be a Beef Quality Assurance workshop in Alachua County on April 20th and 27th. The next

two will be small ruminant workshops offered in Clay County on May 11th and in Columbia County on May 20th. Look for the advertisements on these workshops in this newsletter. Look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
David B. Nistler
Chairman, North Florida
Beef & Forage Group

SPRING WEED MANAGEMENT WENDY BURTON, BRADFORD COUNTY EXTENSION

A pasture free of weeds begins with good management. A well managed vigorously growing grass is less susceptible to the influx of weeds. Good management begins with proper forage selection, adequate soil pH and fertility and proper grazing management along

with weed control methods. Mechanical or herbicidal methods can be effective, but management practices must follow for a successful eradication of that weed.

Mowing is one of the most common weed control practices. It improves the appearance

of pasture and if timed properly can prevent weeds for producing seed. It is more effective on broadleaf weeds and annual weeds. Another factor to consider is the method of regeneration of that weed. Prickly pear for example can form new plants from the cut of past

SPRING WEED MANAGEMENT

(CONT)

plants; therefore mowing would only spread this plant to other parts of the pasture.

There are many different types of herbicides used to control weeds and knowing what weed you need to control is the first step. If you are not sure what is in your pasture, call your local extension agent for proper identification. Time and rate of application is also important. Rates too low will not give adequate weed control and rates too high can injure the

forage. Preemergence applications are made before the weed germinates and knowing the life cycle of that particular weed is essential for proper timing. Postemergence application is done after the weeds have emerged and are most effective when they are small.

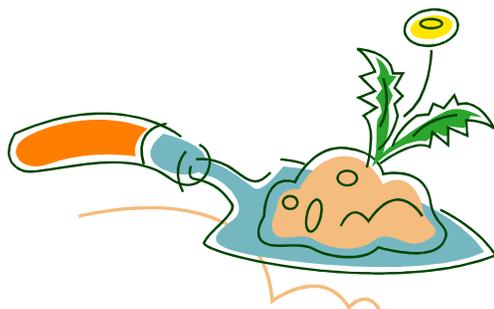
Broadcast application or spot application is another concept you need to address before application. How you will apply depends upon how dense your weed population is. If scattered

over the pasture, it may be more effective to broadcast the herbicide.

Before spraying you need to check your

nozzles on your boom and look for injury or wear to the nozzles. Also checking for uniform distribution is extremely important to get uniform coverage. Damaged nozzles can result in un-uniform coverage therefore causing streaking and possibly damage to the forage. You may contact your extension agent for help in this matter.

For information concerning control of particular weeds please see IFAS publication, Weed Management in Pastures and Rangeland-2006 (SS-AGR-08). In this pub you will find charts with effectiveness of herbicides on common weeds, when and how much herbicide to apply, and haying and grazing restrictions.



“Time and rate of application is also important. Rates too low will not give adequate weed control and rates too high can injure the forage.”

HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT: GOATS

ELENA M. TORO,
COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION

Do you have a “Herd Health Management Plan” for your herd? If you don’t this may be the time to think about putting one in place or if you have one, to re-evaluate it and decide if changes need to be made. Herd health programs are management tools designed to meet the production goals of producers. This means you need to

set some goals for your operation and then you need to manage your herd in such a way that will allow the herd to reach the goals you set.

For example, a goal most goat producers have is to increase the income from meat or animal sales. This means the number of kids you get per doe per year will need to increase.

Goal:
Raise 3
kids
from

each doe every calendar year. Your management plan for this year should include: 1. Selecting does that consistently produce and wean an average of 1.5 kids per pregnancy. The length of gestation in goats is five months and



HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT: GOATS (CONT.)

although it is possible to produce two sets of kids each year, most herds are not managed to do so. 2. Review vaccination programs to reduce mortality from disease. Are you providing vaccinations on a timely manner to the herd? 3. Review diet and implement adjustments so that kids can reach weaning weights earlier. Take a look at your pastures, if feeding hay do you know the quality. Are you targeting the nutritional requirements of kids, does, bucks?, and 4. Last but not least: List problems you have faced in the past and that have produced mortality in the herd or poor reproduction. Seek solutions to those problems; call your county agent if needed.

As with everything be patient and once you set your goals stick to them!

Goat Facts

- Disease problems can often be eliminated with correct management and emphasis on proper sanitation.

Small goat herds tend to have a high nonproductive/productive ratio. Small herd owners often keep animals that would normally be culled from commercial herds. Often, the net result is the maintenance of animals with chronic illnesses that may serve as reservoirs of disease.

Goats: Taking care of kids and weanlings

Here are some guidelines from the experts:

1. Dry off kids immediately after birth and provide warm, dry, clean environment. Kids may be removed from their dams at this time if they are to be bottle reared.

2. Dip the navel and soles of the feet in strong tincture of iodine immediately following birth.

3. Feed two ounces of colostrums within 30-60 minutes of birth (at least 10% of their body weight), and provide colostrums for the next three to four days. Many producers maintain colostrum from older does for the feeding of orphaned kids. It can be conveniently stored by freezing in ice cube trays. Cubed colostrum can be thawed and warmed for feeding as needed.

4. Examine kids for congenital defects.

5. Disbud kids as soon as buttons can be detected, usually from three days to two weeks of age if needed. Castration could be done at the same time. *Dehorning baby goats requires skill and experience, otherwise serious injury can occur.*

6. Treat with coccidiostat when moving kids to new pens, if coccidiosis is a problem in the herd. Coccidiosis can affect kids as early as two weeks of age. Diarrhea is the most consistent sign. Kids become weak, dehydrated and may demonstrate signs of abdominal discomfort. Rapid detection, isolation, and prompt treatment of af-

ected kids is important for reducing losses. Coccidiosis is usually treated with Sulfas or Amprolium. These drugs may also be used in coccidia prevention strategies in problem herds. Reducing exposure to feces is of prime importance in controlling this disease. Thus feed bunks and hay mangers should be constructed in such a way as to keep kids out.

- Where nutritional muscular dystrophy is a common problem, kids should receive an injection of Vitamin E/ Selenium at one to two weeks of age and repeat in four weeks.

- At one month of age, vaccinate twice at a two-week interval with *Clostridium perfringens* C & D toxoid/bacterin. Other vaccines may be started at this time as well.

- Begin deworming at one month of age and repeat every six weeks. Tapeworms are a problem in kids so deworm them with a product that will work against tapeworms.

Separate doe and buck kids before three to four months of age.

Source: Dr. Lionel Dawson, Oklahoma State University & Dr. Shearer, UF Vet School

“Disease problems can often be eliminated with correct management and emphasis on proper sanitation.”

THE HORN FLY AS AN EXTERNAL PARASITE ON CATTLE

LARRY VARNADOE,
NASSAU COUNTY EXTENSION

The horn fly is one of the most serious pests of cattle. Horn flies cause pain, annoyance and interference with feeding, resting and other normal activities of cattle. The fly is a persistent biter and constantly pierces the skin to suck blood. High summertime populations cause cattle to lose weight and produce less milk. Numerous bites in one location, usually the head and underline, can cause open sores that may predispose the host to secondary infection. In addition, because of their piercing and sucking mouth parts, horn flies are suspected of transmitting blood-borne diseases within the herd.

Horn fly populations as low as 50 per animal are considered to be of economic importance. However, numbers of 10,000 to 20,000 flies

per animal have been reported and could make blood loss alone (0.5 gal/month) a significant factor in reduced animal performance.

The female horn fly lays her eggs exclusively in fresh cow manure (usually within 10 minutes after dropping). Larvae hatch in about 18 hours and pass through 3 stages in 3 to 5 days with adults emerging at the end of this 3 to 5 day period. Mating occurs on the host and fertile females can lay up to 200 eggs in a lifetime. The entire life cycle of the horn fly lasts from 10 to 14 days.

Adult horn flies remain on the host day and night except for laying eggs and feed intermittently up to 20 times per day. This constant location makes the fly susceptible to chemical control. The best control for horn flies is provided by forced-use dust bags, although sprays, ear tags and dips have been used with some success. Bach rubbers and pour-on materials have met with limited success. Feed additives

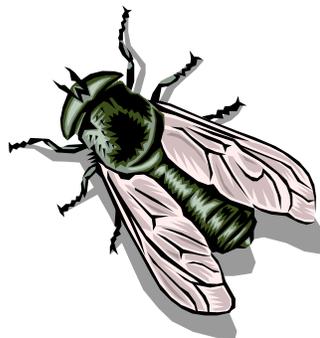
that control the hatching of larvae provide some control but the ability of adult flies to migrate can keep populations at high levels.

When selecting a fly control product, please be aware that some pesticides may adversely affect some breeds of animals. For example, Brahman cattle may be sensitive to organophosphate compounds. Sensitive animals should not be treated or should be treated with extreme caution.

Other points to consider when selecting a pesticide are age, size and condition of the animals. Younger animals may require a lower dosage or may not be treated at all. Smaller animals may require a lower rate of pesticide application. In addition, stressed or diseased animals may be more sensitive to pesticides and should not be treated until recovered.

REMEMBER TO READ THE LABEL BEFORE APPLYING ANY PESTICIDE!!!

“Horn flies cause pain, annoyance and interference with feeding, resting and other normal activities of cattle.”



SOME SUMMER FORAGE SUGGESTIONS

JACQUE BREMAN,
UNION COUNTY EXTENSION

Sometimes you may have some rented land or smaller fenced parcels that you want to put some high quality cattle feed for replacement heifer growth or just to rotate your pastures, or to grow a silage crop, or for wildlife enhancement after a grazing period. There are other forage crops for our area besides Bahia and Bermuda grass pastures.

Your summer options depend on how wet or dry your soils are: On really wet soils Aeschynomene and Japanese Millet would be better performers. Brown Top Millet, Crabgrass and Alyceclover would do well on soils between really wet and well-drained (a drier Flatwood site). On well-drained soils Pearl Millet, SorghumX-Sudangrass hybrids, sorghum for silage, Cowpeas, Hairy Indigo would be the better performers. Velvetbean interplanted with a tropical corn might be an alternative for conserved forage in the Fall.

Soils should be limed to a pH of 6.5 for sorghum for silage and for corn interplanted with Velvetbean. Soils should be limed to a pH of 6.0 for all the other summer forages.

Forage Crop:	Planting Dates:	Pounds of Seed per Acre:	Planting Depth in Inches:
Alyceclover	Apr. 15 - June 30	12 - 15	¼ - 1/2
Aeschynomene	Mar. 30 - June 30	6 - 8 (dehulled)	¼ - 1/2
Brown Top Millet	Mar. 15 - June 30	15 - 20 broadcast	½ - 1
Cowpea	Apr. 1 - July 31	100 - 120 (broadcast) or 60 - 90 if drilled	1 - 3
Crabgrass	Spring	3 - 5	1/4
Hairy Indigo	Apr. 1 - June 30	6 - 8	¼ - 1/2
Japanese Millet	Mar. 15 - June 30	24 - 30 broadcast	½ - 1
Pearl Millet	Mar. 15 - June 30	24 - 30(broadcast) or 10 - 12 if drilled	1/4 - ½
Sorghum for grazing	Apr. 1 - June 30	24 - 30 (broadcast) or 10 - 20 if drilled	1 - 2
Sorghum for silage	Apr. 1 - June 30	6 - 8	1 - 2
Sorghum X Sudan	Mar. 15 - June 30	10 -12	¼ - 1/2
Velvetbean	Mar. 15 - June 30	30 - 45 (broadcast) or 2 - 8 if drilled	2 - 3

UF-IFAS Extension fertilizer recommendations are based on soil test results. For the grasses or legume+grass combinations that are going to be grazed we recommend fertilizing at planting or preplant: 30 pounds actual Nitrogen per acre, all of the phosphorous and half of the potash recommended on the soil

“Your summer options depend on how wet or dry your soils are.”

Some Summer Forage Suggestions

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test. After the first grazing period, apply an additional 50 pounds actual Nitrogen per acre plus the remaining half of the potash recommended on the soil test results. For legumes that will be grown alone (Aeschynomene, cowpeas, velvetbeans, etc.) apply all the phosphorous and potash recommended at planting (no Nitrogen is needed because legumes fix their own). When you plant legumes alone, be sure to buy the right inoculum and inoculate the seed before you plant so they will be able to fix Nitrogen and grow properly.



For more forage management information contact your UF-IFAS Extension Agent and the listed UF-IFAS-Extension publications available on line.

UF-IFAS Extension references which readers may want to get more information from include:

- Aeschynomene. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AA189
- Alycleclover - summer annual legume. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_DS123
- Crabgrass as a forage and hay crop. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AG195
- Fertilizing and liming forage crops. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AG179
- Forage planting and establishment methods. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AG107
- Planting dates, rates and methods of agronomic crops. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_aa127
- Producing millets and sorghums. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AG157
- Minor use summer annual forage legumes. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_AG156
- Summer forage legume guide. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/BODY_DS126

“When you plant legumes alone, be sure to buy the right inoculum and inoculate the seed before you plant so they will be able to fix Nitrogen and grow properly.”

NFBFG 2006 CALENDAR

<u>Month</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>County</u>
March	Spring Pasture/Hay Weed	Union
April	Beef Quality Assurance	Alachua
May	Small Ruminant	Clay & Columbia
June	Horse Management	Bradford & Alachua
July	9th Annual Hay Field Day	Suwannee
September	Wildlife Management	Baker & Nassau

Upcoming NFBFG Events

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Training

Thursday, April 20, 2006

&

Thursday, April 27, 2006

(This is a two part program)

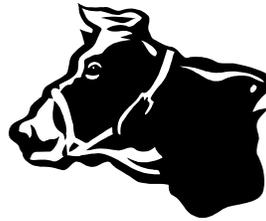
5-8pm, UF Animal Science Room #156

Registration: \$5 to cover meal

Please RSVP to Cindy Sanders, Alachua County Extension 352-955-2402

By April 14, 2006

**2 CORE and
1 Private Ag or
1 Animal Ag
CEU's available!**



**Florida Level 1 BQA Certification

Please see attached Flyer for further information and benefits of attending.



Small Ruminant Workshops

May 2006

Columbia County- May 20 from
9am-12pm

Clay County- Goat Forage Management

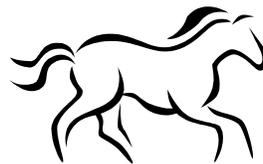
Equine Workshops

June 2006

Alachua County- Nutrition and Reproduction

Bradford County- Nutrition, Teeth and Hoof Care

More information will follow!



The Northeast Florida Beef and Forage Group is made up of UF/IFAS Extension Agents from 9 counties in Northeast Florida. The purpose of the NFBFG is to provide educational programming to North Florida livestock producers dealing with nutrition, health, reproduction, management, and marketing of their livestock and forage commodities.

For more information and program dates and publications you may visit our website at

<http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>

- Program Information
- Program Handouts and Pictures
- Current Beef Forage Issues
 - County Newsletters

University of Florida
Bradford County Cooperative Extension Service
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 Starke, FL 32091

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 Permit #12

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Extension programs are open to all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person needing a special accommodation to participate in any activity, should contact the Bradford County Cooperative Extension Service at 2266 North Temple Avenue, Starke, FL 32091 or telephone (904) 966-6299 no later than seven (7) days prior to the event. Hearing impaired persons can access the foregoing telephone by contacting the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD).

We're on the web:
<http://nfbfg.ifas.ufl.edu>