

NORTHEAST FLORIDA BEEF & FORAGE GROUP

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February 16, 2009

Dear Producers,

In this newsletter, we are providing you with the most up-to-date information on a variety of subjects that will be helpful when making management decisions this spring.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our upcoming educational programs. The first two programs we have planned will provide you with an update on fertilization and the use of alternative sources of fertilizers in pastures and hayfields. Please see the flyer on page 7 for more information. Later in

the spring we will also be having a series of Horse Management Clinics to help horse owners better manage their horses and pasture areas. More information about these clinics can be found on page 6.

As a group of extension agents, 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 us.

Sincerely,
Elena M. Toro

Now is the Time to Top-dress Rye with Nitrogen Fertilizer and to Control Wild Radish

Rye pastures were planted late this Fall because of the dry weather, so rye got off to a slow start. However, don't count on the 30 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen fertilizer used at planting to carry the rye into the late-Winter grazing period. Top-dress the rye with 50 pounds per acre of actual nitrogen.

Wild Radish is best controlled when weeds are less than 6 inches high (early rosette stage). Graph 1 shows that the larger the Wild Rad-

ish plant the less the 2,4-D controlled it. We often wait too long to apply 2,4-D and then don't get the extra rye grazing that would have resulted from Wild Radish control in the rosette stage.

The challenge is to apply herbicides (such as 2,4-D) early enough to get Wild Radish control without damaging the rye crop. The rye must have 3 to 4 tillers on it to reduce the chance of herbicide injury (in most

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ATTENTION GOAT PRODUCERS !

BRONSON ANNOUNCES NEW RULE REGULATING IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT OF SHEEP AND GOATS

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson today announced the upcoming implementation of a new rule regulating the identification and intra-state movement of sheep and goats. The rule, effective October 10, is designed to prevent the spread of scrapie, a fatal, degenerative disease of the nervous system in these animals.

The rule requires that all sheep and goats moved intrastate for any reason, or when there is a change of ownership, must be identified by their flock/herd of birth, or if that information is unknown, by the flock/herd from which they originated. Only identification methods approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) can be used. These include official USDA ear tags, identification tattoos, or implanted electronic microchips.

The new rule is being done in conjunction with the USDA's Scrapie Eradication Program, which provides standards for state and federal governments and the industry to monitor, control and eradicate the disease from domestic flocks and herds in the United States. The USDA regulates interstate movement of sheep and goats but the state rule was necessary to ensure the same standards are followed for animals moved within the state's borders.



"It is imperative that the federal government and all the states work together on this eradication program," Bronson said. "In today's marketplace, animals are often moved to many locations. It's important to be able to quickly determine where they are from if they are diagnosed with scrapie."

Information about the flock or herd of origin is necessary because an infected animal may not show clinical symptoms for up to five years, making it more difficult to diagnose and trace back to the original herd to look for a source or other infected animals.

The department's Division of Animal Industry is launching an education effort to get word of the new rule out to producers, dealers, auction markets, petting zoos, 4-H clubs, and any other entities that deal with goats and sheep.

For more information about Administrative Code Rule 5C-29, the scrapie rule, contact the Department's Division of Animal Industry at (850) 410-0900 or visit <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai>.

Bull Management For Success

The key to a successful cow-calf operation is to maximize the calf crop percentage. If your cows are not producing calves it can have a significant negative impact on your bottom line. Proper feeding and management of bulls can improve their performance and greatly increase the calf crop percentage. You may be tempted to reduce feed inputs because of the rising costs. However, bulls should be fed to maintain a vigorous condition at all times. Reduced fertility and libido of bulls can be traced back to early care. To maintain peak reproductive performance, bulls should have proper nutrition and adequate exercise.

Young Bulls

Post weaning care is important to the future potential of bulls. Check with your veterinarian to determine which diseases are in your area and vaccinate accordingly. Weaned bulls should be dewormed, **deflucked** and vaccinated for (5-way Leptospira, Vibriosis, and Trich). They should also be negative for brucellosis and tuberculosis. Bulls of British breeding should be fed to gain 2 pounds daily and should weigh 1,250 lbs by 20 months of age. Rations should include 65% TDN with 10-12% crude protein. Typically a ration of 2-3 % of body weight will be fed per day. A complete trace mineralized salt and a balanced Ca and P mineral mix should be provided free choice at all times. Supplemental feeds can be used depending on forage conditions. It may be necessary to gradually increase supplements if the bull was not creep-fed.

Yearling Bulls

Yearling bull feeding requirements will be higher than mature bulls because they are actively growing. They should be fed 2 1/2 to 3 percent of their body weight to continue to gain 2 lbs per day. They will need supplemental grain to maintain satisfactory flesh. Bulls may lose 100 lbs during the first breeding season so they must gain this back before the next season.

Mature Bulls

Spring and summer pastures are normally ade-

quate to maintain mature bulls. However, it is critical that they are in good condition prior to breeding season. Supplemental feeding may be necessary beginning 60 days prior to the season. Bulls will typically consume 1.5% to 3% of their body weight.



General Information

Ideally, bulls should be kept separate from the cow herd until breeding season. Pastures or paddocks (2 ac per bull) should be provided to allow room for exercise and grazing. Bulls should have easy access to water, mineral mix and shade trees to reduce heat stress. Hoof maintenance on older bulls can prolong their usefulness.

A breeding soundness exam BSE can provide information about a bull's ability to reproduce and should be given prior to the first breeding season. Yearling bulls should be exposed to no more than 15 cows while older bulls can settle 25 to 40 cows. If possible, bulls and cows should be of similar ages. This can be important in controlling Trich outbreaks. Well maintained bulls will ensure a productive and profitable cow calf enterprise.

(Adapted from Development and Management of Bulls, AS-27, J.W. Lemaster & R.S. Sand)

Steve Gaul
Nassau County Extension
Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent

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years this happens the first two weeks of February). If you have any questions about the stage of rye growth call your Extension Agent for a field visit to confirm the proper stage of rye growth.

If conditions are right, there is a possibility of applying herbicide for Wild Radish control and your Nitrogen top-dressing. If you are planning to use 2,4-D in combination with nitrogen, then herbicide formulation is important. The amine formulation of 2,4-D must be mixed with water (pre-slurried) before adding to the nitrogen solution, with strong and continual tank agitation. Failure to pre-mix amine-formulated 2,4-D with water can result in an uneven distribution of herbicide in the spray tank. Spraying the ester formulation of 2,4-D with a nitrogen carrier will often result in greater leaf burning as compared with amine formulation. Wild Radish control will be better with warmer temperatures (greater than 60° F). Only amine or low-volatile ester formulations are legal for application in Florida. Be sure to have a weed speed indicator when applying an herbicide such as 2,4-D and follow the recommended distances from susceptible crops (such as vegetables). Be sure to follow the herbicide label for grazing restrictions.

References:

Hall, D., V. Vandiver, and J. Ferrell. 2006. **Wild Radish, *Raphanus raphanistrum* L.** Online:

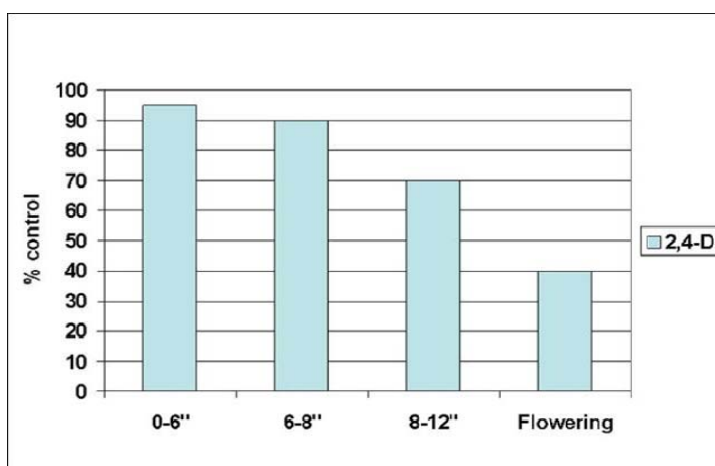
[<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FW032>].

Ferrel, J. and G. MacDonald. 2008. **Wild Radish--Biology and Control.** Online: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_wg215].

Fishel, F., J. Ferrell, G. MacDonald, and B. Brecke. 2007. **Florida's Organo-Auxin Herbicide Rule – 2007.** Online: [<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG05>].

Mylavarapu, R., D. Wright, G. Kidder, and C.G. Chambliss. 2007. **UF/IFAS Standardized Fertilization Recommendations for Agronomic Crops.** Online: [<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS163>].

Jacque Breman, Ph.D. Agronomy,
Union County Extension
CED and Agriculture Agent



Graph 1. Effect of 2,4-D applied at 1 pt/A on wild radish control as impacted by weed size at time of application. (Source: Ferrel and MacDonald. 2008.)

Reducing Supplementation Costs for Beef Cattle

Cost effective supplementation has always been an important factor in determining the economic bottom line of cow/calf producers. Due to increases in feed, fuel, and fertilizer it is important that producers develop a cost effective supplementation program.

One of the most common errors made relative to nutrition programs is over or underfeeding certain nutrients during the production cycle. The two primary supplements producers should be

concerned with are supplying enough protein to meet microbial protein requirements or feeding a high energy supplement to ensure the cow is consuming enough total calories to meet her energy requirements.

Protein supplements should be offered when forage crude protein drops below 7-8% and total digestible nutrients (TDN) is below 50%.

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Supplements should be priced based on their cost per unit of protein or energy.

Crude Protein (CP)

Cost of protein (\$ /100 lb) is calculated by dividing the cost of 100 lb of feed by the protein fraction (% protein/100).

Example:

Soybean Meal cost \$386/ton = $(386/20 = 19.3)$
 100 lb of soybean meal contain 48 lb protein
 100 lb protein cost \$40.21 $(19.3/.48)$ or 40 cents a pound CP

Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN)

Energy measurement commonly used when comparing feeds per unit of energy is calculated by dividing the price per ton by the pounds of TDN per ton.

Example:

Hominy cost \$138/ton and has 83% TDN
 $2000 \text{ lb} \times 83\% \text{ TDN} = 1660 \text{ lb of TDN per ton}$
 $\$138 \text{ per ton} / 1660 \text{ lb of TDN} = \0.083 per lb of

TDN

Further information on strategies for cost effective supplementation of beef cattle can be found at the EDIS website <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AN085> or contact your Extension Office.

Derek Barber
 Columbia County Extension
 Livestock and Natural Resources Agent II



Problem Pasture Weeds in Winter

Fireweed (*Urtica chamaedryoides*) is a troublesome toxic broadleaf winter annual found throughout Florida. It is most often found in disturbed areas such as feeding pens, under shade trees or wherever animals congregate and grass is less dense.



Fireweed leaves superficially resemble small strawberry leaves. The stems, petioles, and leaves are covered with tiny hairs filled with toxins that irritate the skin and cause respiratory stress if ingested or inhaled. Cattle usually tend to avoid contact with fireweed but horses are known to occasionally browse the weed. This can cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing for several days. In rare cases foals have died after rolling in fireweed and over-exposing themselves to the toxins.

Control

Research conducted by IFAS revealed that mowing did not result in acceptable control of fireweed. Mowing did decrease the size of the

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plants but the total plant number remained the same. Furthermore, the fireweed seed is covered by a sticky seed coat that could allow it to be transported to new areas by sticking to the mowing implements. There were three herbicides identified that provided consistent fireweed control: Remedy® (triclopyr), Pasturegard® (triclopyr + fluroxypyr) and Milestone® (aminopyralid).

These herbicides can be applied anytime of the year on warm season forage grasses. An added benefit is that there are no grazing restrictions on beef cattle for any of these herbicides. However, there is a 14 day grazing restriction on lactating dairy animals for Remedy® and a one season grazing restriction on lactating dairy animals for Pasturegard®.

Information for this article was compiled from “Fireweed (Heartleaf nettle) Control in Pastures” by Dr. Jason Ferrell, Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department, UF <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG252>

Barton Wilder
Alachua County Extension
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent

Herbicide	Rate per Acre	Cost per Acre
Remedy (triclopyr) Dow AgroSciences	1 quart	\$23.75
Pasturegard (triclopyr + fluroxypyr) Dow AgroSciences	1.5 quarts	\$19.50
Milestone (aminopyralid) Dow AgroSciences	5 fl oz	\$14.85

Horse Management Clinics to be held this Spring

This spring the NFBFG will be sponsoring three Horse Management Clinics for horse owners in Northeast Florida. Program content will vary with each location but all will include educational sessions in classrooms, hands-on demonstrations as well as education exhibits. Do not miss the opportunity to attend one of these clinics!

Some of the topics we will be covering during this programs include stretching hay supply during spring time, meeting nutritional requirements, poisonous plants, assessing body condition scoring, equine dental care, composting horse manure, pasture management in early spring and many other topics that will help you manage your farm and your animals. Programs will take place at the Horse Teaching Unit in Gainesville, FL on April 20, Suwannee Co. Extension Office on April 28 and Bradford Co. Extension Office on May 28. Agendas for each program will be posted on the NFBFG website and in our next newsletter. Feel free to contact your local county agent for more information.

Elena Toro
Suwannee County Extension
Agriculture/Natural Resources Agent



Northeast florida Beef and Forage group



FERTILIZER UPDATE AND ALTERNATIVES



PROGRAM OFFERED IN TWO LOCATIONS

Date: March 5th, 2009
Location: Suwannee County Extension Office
 1302 11th St SW, Live Oak, FL
Time: 6:00 pm
Fee: \$5.00
To register call: (386)362-2771 before March 3.

Date: March 30th, 2009
Location: Duval County Extension Office
 1010 N. McDuff Ave, Jacksonville FL
Time: 6:00 pm
Fee: \$5.00
To register call: (904)387-8850 before March 29

The Northeast Florida Beef Forage Group consists of Extension Agents from Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Nassau, Suwannee and Union Counties.

Primary goals are to provide Extension Educational Programming for beef and forage producers which will increase profitability and sustainability.

For more information about Extension Services provided in your area or upcoming programs contact your local county agent or visit our website.

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

PROGRAM

5:30– 6:00 pm.	Registration
6:00 pm	Welcome/Introductions/Dinner
6:00-6:15 pm	Fertilizer Price Update: Future Trends
6:15-6:45 pm	Timing Fertilization for Optimum Performance
6:45-7:15 pm	Poultry Litter and Biosolids as Fertilizer Alternatives
7:30-8:00 pm	Legumes as an alternative to N fertilization.
8:00-8:20 pm	Non-traditional Liming Sources
8:25 pm	Adjourn

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

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



MARK YOUR CALENDERS !

March 5, 2009, Fertilizer Update and Alternatives

Suwannee County Extension Office— Live Oak, FL

March 30, 2009, Fertilizer Update and Alternatives

Duval County Extension Office— Jacksonville, FL

April 20, 2009, Horse Management Clinic

UF Horse Teaching Unit— Gainesville, FL

April 28, 2009, Horse Management Clinic

Suwannee County Extension Office— Live Oak, FL

May 28, 2009, Horse Management Clinic

Bradford County Extension Office—Starke, FL

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 Baker County Cooperative Extension Service at 1025 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny, FL 32063 or telephone (904) 259-3520 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).